



MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 16

DEPT.: / Community Planning and Development Services

DATE: July 29, 2004

Contact: Shelby Spillers, Preservation Planner

ACTION: Discussion and Instruction on "Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines," dated July 2004, to provide guidance for maintenance and exterior alterations to contributing resources and site characteristics of the historic areas of the Rockville Cemetery so that the character of the site and historical, architectural, and environmental features are preserved.

ACTION STATUS:

FOR THE MEETING OF: 8/2/04

INTRODUCED

PUB. HEARING

INSTRUCTIONS

APPROVED

EFFECTIVE

ROCKVILLE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

☐ CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and instruct to staff regarding the Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines.

IMPACT: ☐ Environmental ☐ Fiscal ☐ Neighborhood ☒ Other:

The Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines will provide guidance and direction to the current and future property owner(s), the Historic District Commission, and other City bodies when planning maintenance, future improvements and making decisions about alterations to the property.

BACKGROUND: A draft of the Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines was distributed to the HDC and to interested parties, including members of the Board of Directors for the Rockville Cemetery Association, at the Historic District Commission meeting of June 17, 2004. Their comments are attached to this document. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Draft Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines on June 23, 2004. Their recommendations are noted on the draft guidelines. A copy of the draft has been posted on the City's web site. A Public Hearing was held on July 19, 2004, at which time the draft guidelines were presented to Mayor and Council. A member of the Board of Directors for the Rockville Cemetery Association addressed the Mayor and Council speaking in favor of the guidelines. The public record remains open until August 2, 2004. As of Wednesday July 28, 2004 staff has received no further comments.

PREPARED BY: Shelby Spillers
Shelby Spillers, Preservation Planner

APPROVED BY: [Signature] 7-26-04
Robert Spalding, AICP, Chief of Planning Date

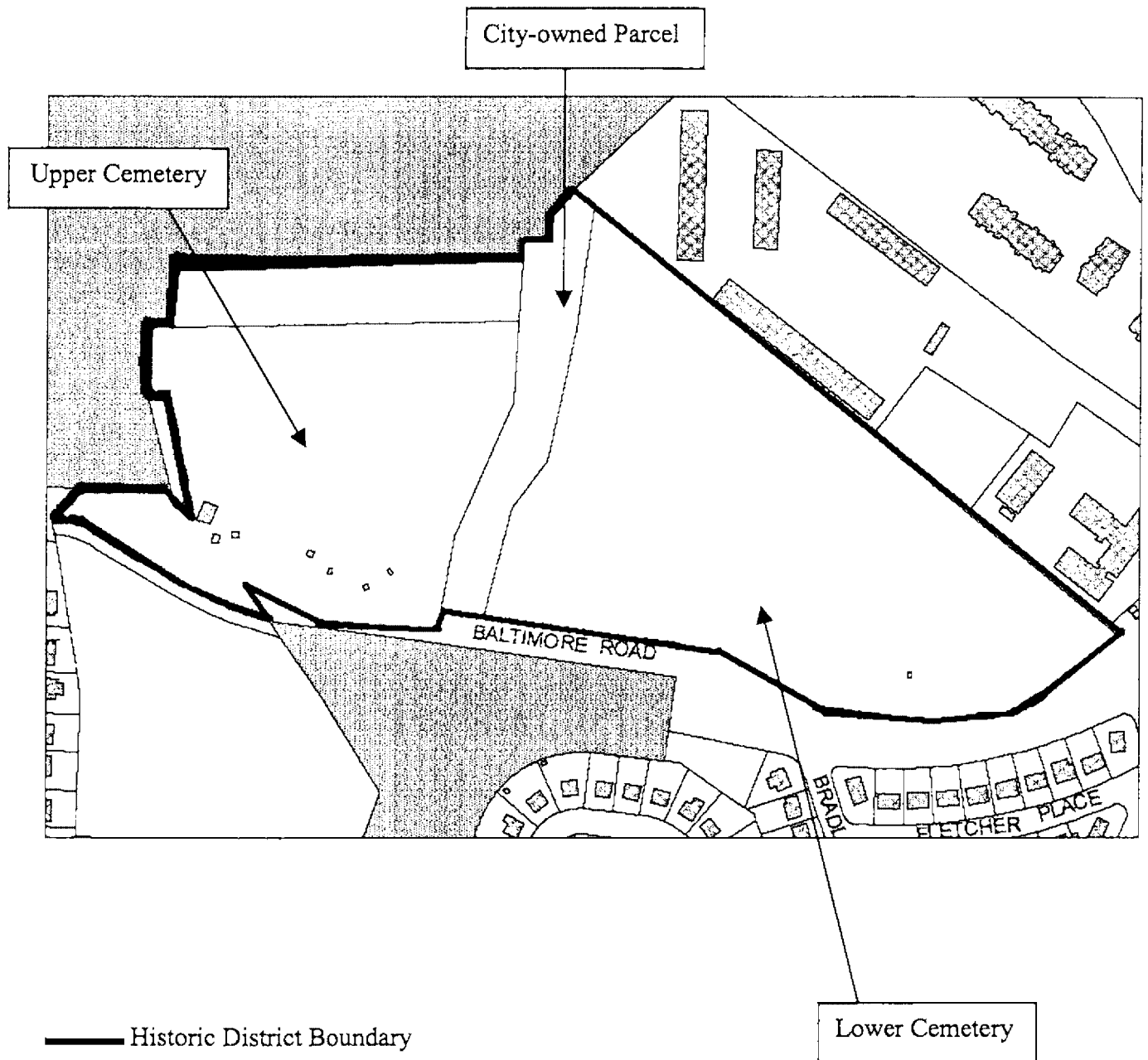
APPROVED BY: Arthur D. Chambers 7/26/04
Arthur D. Chambers, AICP, Director CPDS Date

APPROVED BY: Catherine Tuck Parrish 7/28/04
Catherine Tuck Parrish, Acting City Manager Date

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

1. Location Map of Rockville Cemetery Property showing designated historic district area
2. July 8, 2004 Memo regarding changes and comments indicated by RCA
3. Draft Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines (June 2004)

**Attachment 1 – Location Map of Rockville Cemetery
Property Showing Designated Historic District.**





City of Rockville

MEMORANDUM

July 8, 2004

TO: Catherine Tuck Parrish, Acting City Manager

VIA: Bob Spalding, Chief of Planning

FROM: Shelby Spillers, Historic Preservation Planner

SUBJECT: Comments received on Cemetery Guidelines

To date, we have received the following comments from the Rockville Cemetery Association:

Table of Contents - Ch. 3 - spelling of "cemetary" to "cemetery"

p. 12 - line 11 - delete "months"

p. 14 - 4th line from bottom - change "mesh" to "reflect"

p. 15 - end of paragraph - add "Cemetery"

The RCA was missing pages 18-25, but noted that changes requested had been made.

p. 37 - define "mature shrub" and reword to allow for removal of invasive shrubs without review

Current wording in text allows for removal of all trees less than 12" diameter without review, but requires review for all "mature shrubs". The RCA is comfortable with the tree removal policy, but not the shrub policy.

The HDC staff agreed to reword it to provide leeway for shrub removal without individual review.

Landscape Plan - will be created by RCA to provide list of suitable replacement shrubs and will vary by area (upper, lower, wet, etc.). The landscape plan will be approved separately and can create additional plans for tree removal, etc.

Historic significance will include Henry Hilleary as Rev. War veteran and note that all major wars from Rev. War on represented with veterans.

List of notables at end will be expanded and we are gathering additional names, particularly women of note.

Thank you to Shelby who had to take over this project from Anne Brockett. Shelby has maxed out the graphics department to provide us with wonderful color photos and the document is well-formatted and easily shows what is subject to review as well as maps and guidelines.

Re-write of Appendix F. (important people buried in the cemetery.)

Captain James Anderson – Rode with Elijah Veirs White and the 35th Battalion of the Virginia Cavalry and was twice captured during the Civil War. A County Surveyor and teacher he went on to become the first professional manager for Montgomery County public schools.

Ellen Stalnaker Armstrong (1850-1944) The widow of Methodist circuit minister **Alfred Armstrong** (1854-1899), she remained active in Rockville affairs. At the age of 87 she was praised for her embroidery in the London Evening News. Her “Roosevelt Rose” coverlets were sold from her home on S. Washington Street.

Lucy Virginia Barnsley (1882-1963) Beloved elementary school teacher who encouraged victory gardens during WWII. Lucy Barnsley Elementary School was named for her.

Margaret Beall (1817-1901) Daughter and heir to Upton and Jane Neal Robb Beall. She and her sisters never married in order to keep control of their fortune. After the Civil War she sold home sites to her former slaves and donated another parcel to Christ Church for use as a parsonage.

Upton Beall (1770-1872) Second clerk of the Court for Montgomery County. The Bealls were major landowners in Montgomery County and Upton’s father, Brooke Beall, was the first clerk in Georgetown. Upton built the Beall-Dawson House in 1815. It currently serves as home to the Mont. Co. Historical Society. His wife **Jane Neal Robb Beall** (1794 –1851) is also buried here.

Maude Wilson Betts (1914- 1982) Wrote the history of Prince George’s Parrish of the Episcopal Church.

William Veirs Bouic Jr. (1846-1906) The first mayor of Rockville was known for his progressive outlook. He served on the Town Commission from 1872-1881 and again from 1882-1888. He was in the State Senate from 1898-1901.

Richard Johns Bowie (1807-1881) Judge Bowie donated land from his home Glenview in 1880 for the "purposes of preserving, protecting, and improving the graveyard of Christ Church". He served in their vestry and as a warden from 1836-1881. He was one of the vestrymen taken by JEB Stuart's troops in late June 1863.

Born in Washington D.C. he served as a Whig in the State Senate 1836-1837 and in the U.S. Congress 1849-1853 before narrowly losing the election for governor. He was appointed Chief Judge to the State Court of Appeals in 1861.

Catherine Williams Bowie (1808-1891) Wife of Richard Johns Bowie, they established "Glenview together. The mansion and grounds now serves as the Rockville Civic Center.

Lt. Thomas C. Bradley (1864-1903) "He died as he lived, a brave soldier, and served through the Cuban campaign as a Roughrider."

Dr. Ernest Bullard (1859-1931) Moved here from Wisconsin and founded a mental hospital later known as Chestnut Lodge. This world-renowned facility utilized innovative treatments which provided inspiration for the book, "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" and the movie, "Lillith". Bullard's son **Dexter** (1898-1981) and grandson Rusty continued this family dynasty providing mental health services for over 90 years.

Edwin H. Chinn (1894-1917) – "The first soldier from Montgomery County to give his life in the Great War."

Henry A. Dawson (1854-1937) Hal moved from Rockville to Pine Ridge, South Dakota where he opened a trading post before the turn of the century. He returned to Rockville and built a farmhouse at Rocky Glen Farm which now serves as Stepping Stones Shelter. His wife **Frances** (1869-1948) is also buried here.

Lawrence Allnutt Dawson (1807-1873) A farmer and attorney who owned "Rocky Glen" Farm. He was elected to the Md. Legislature as a Whig in 1837. He served as Union Commissioner of the Draft during the Civil War and was one of the Christ Church vestrymen taken by Gen. Stuart's troops.

Rose Kiger Dawson (1896-1979) Born on a Sioux reservation Rose moved to Rockville when her father returned in 1912. She served as the clerk of the County Board of Election Supervisors for thirty years and was active in the Republican party and in recruiting women to vote.

John Glissen England, Jr. A former mayor, councilman, director of the Board of Education and postmaster he was also great-grandson of Brigadier General Jeremiah Crabb.

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) One of the greatest American writers, he and his wife **Zelda** (1900-1948) were moved to the Fitzgerald family plot at St. Mary's Church in 1975.

Emily England Greenly (1872-1843) – Carried the Maryland flag in the 1913 suffragist march.

Gude Family – Supplied their Dupont Circle Nursery from their farm outside Rockville. The Gudes provided plants for the White House. **Gilbert** (1923-) served in the US Congress from 1967-1977 and introduced legislation to restore and preserve the C&O Canal.

John Harding (1683-1752) A farmer whose gravestone is the oldest in the cemetery.

Sophia Dorothy Barnard Higgins (1824-1907) – Dora Higgins wrote a detailed account of JEB Stuart's raid through Rockville. Her husband **John** (1815-1870) was one of those arrested. After his death she took over the family store and used the proceeds to build several houses for her family known as "Higginsville".

Henry Hilleary (d. 1792) - Revolutionary War veteran died at age 54.

Walter Perry Johnson (1887-1946) Known for his fast ball as a pitcher with the Washington Senators baseball team (1907-1927). He held records for career shutouts and strike-outs and later managed the Senators and the Cleveland Indians. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1936. He had a farm in Montgomery County and served on the County Council.

Captain J.P. Kiger (1816-1903) Served as an aide to Union General Rosencrans during the Civil War.

Robert Whiteside Kirk (1892-1966) Worked on the Panama Canal in 1910-1913 with his mother and two brothers.

Dr. William E. Linthicum (1902-1991) He operated his doctor's office out of his home on S. Washington Street and served on the City Council from 1938-1946. His wife **Sue** (1908-1981) is also buried here.

W. Pinckney Mason (d. 1922) Mason was a Confederate Captain who served on the Monitor and later educated many of Rockville's leading citizens at Rockville Academy.

Lee Offutt (1864-1929) City Council member from 1890-1898, Offutt went on to become Mayor of Rockville from 1906-1916 and again from 1918-1920. He was mayor during the typhoid epidemic of 1913.

George Peter (1829-1893) An attorney descended from a prominent Washington family, he was imprisoned for aiding the rebels during the Civil War. Peter served on the Town Commission and in the State Senate after the war and is buried with his wife, **Lavinia**.

E. Stedman Prescott (1896-1968) Son of Alexander F. and Edith Kellogg, he served on the City Council 1924-1930 and was appointed Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals in 1964.

Elijah Barrett Prettyman (1891-1917) Born in Lexington, Va. and served in the Army during WWI. He became Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 1945-1962. The Prettyman family has a long and distinguished history of public service in law and education.

Pumphrey Family Carpenters and undertakers. The Pumphrey's built many houses in Rockville and by the 1850's they has begun making coffins as well. Pumphrey's Colonial Funeral Home opened on Montgomery Ave. in 1928 and the business has continued to grow and is now under the management of the sixth generation of the family. The Caretaker's Cottage at Rockville Cemetery was built by the Pumphrey's.

Edwin Smith (1851-1912) Smith worked for the Coast and Geodetic Survey. He studied variations in latitude from his home and backyard observatory on Forest Avenue.

Dr. Edward Elisha Stonestreet (1830-1903) practiced medicine from 1850 until his death he treated Civil War soldiers. He also served as examiner for the Union Army and provided many exemptions for Confederate sympathizers. His former office is on display at the Beall-Dawson grounds.

F. Barnard Welsh (1878-1954) Donated the land for Welsh Park.

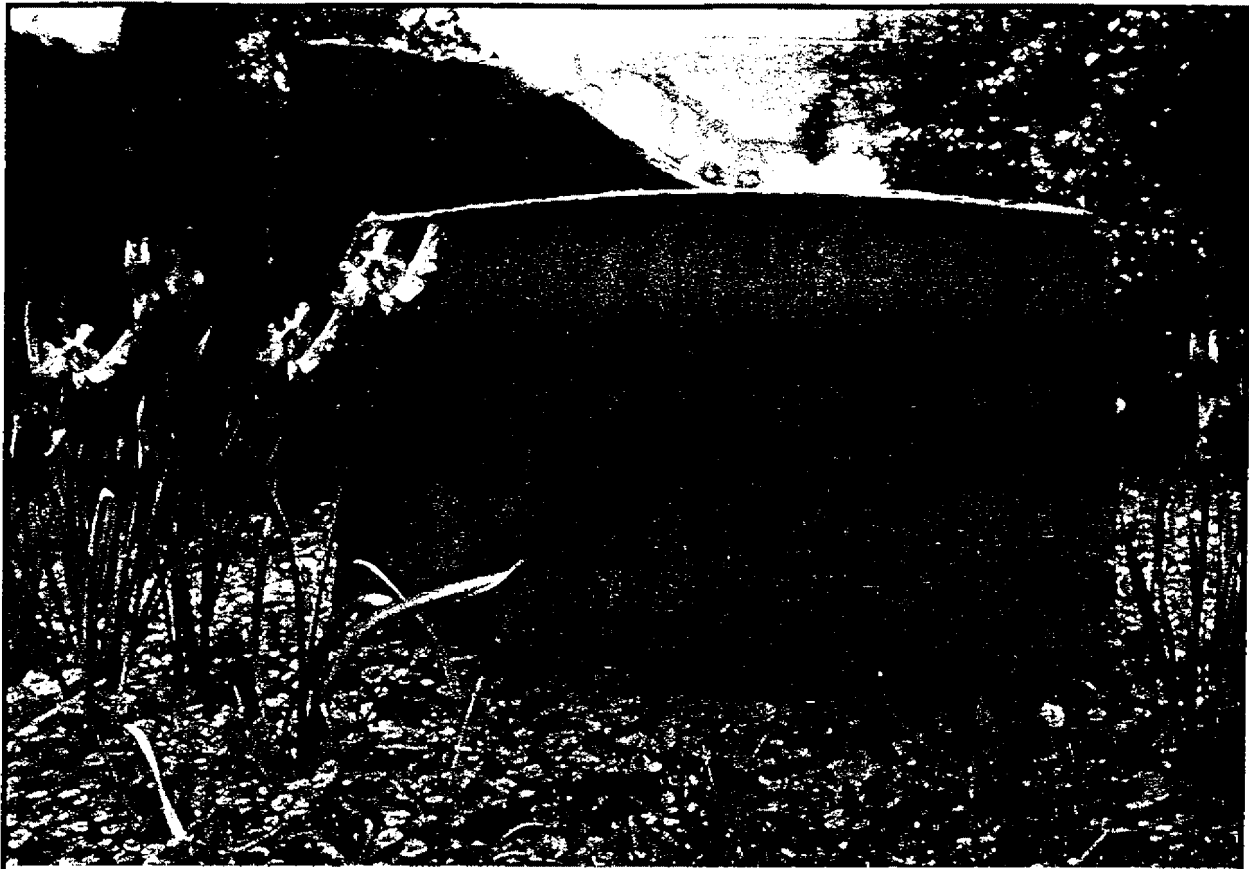
Barnard T. Welsh (1912-1988) – Local attorney, columnist and tennis star who began the Rockville Antique Show in his backyard on Forest Ave.

Margaret Ann Claggett Higgins Welsh (1856-1955) Founded the Women's Club of Rockville in 1900 which has served the community since then through scholarships and by raising money and awareness of worthy causes.

Edwin West (1862-1928) – Local architect who designed and built some of Rockville's finest Victorian homes including some with feature known as "Rockville Bays". West also raised race horses and was in the ice business.

Julius West (1809-1860) His farm was developed after his death into the section of Rockville known as the "West End" which extends from W. Montgomery and Forest Ave. As specified in his will, the proceeds from the sale of the land funded the Rockville Academy building.

Rebecca T. Veirs (1833-1918) – An astute businesswoman who recognized Rockville's potential as a weekend retreat from the City after the B&O arrived, she developed former Beall property on W. Montgomery for rooming houses. Miss Rebecca also organized the Rockville Union Cemetery Society in 1894 to restore the neglected cemetery grounds.



ROCKVILLE CEMETERY

Historic District Design Guidelines

DRAFT



City of Rockville
Department of Community Planning and Development Services
Planning Division
Prepared by The Historic Preservation Office

Acknowledgements

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Robert E. Dorsey
John F. Hall Jr.
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Chapter 1

Introduction

"A cemetery district, like other historic districts, is more than an area composed of a collection of separate elements; it is a cohesive landscape whose overall character is defined by the relationship of the features within it."

— National Register Bulletin 41— Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places

The Rockville Cemetery is one of the oldest operating private cemeteries in Montgomery County. After over 250 years of continuous use, it is the only property in Rockville with a connection to the colonial history of the county and the spread of settlement northward and westward in Maryland. With burials dating back to the mid-eighteenth century, it is a landmark for residents of the city and county alike. Like other old burial grounds, the Rockville Cemetery provides a physical connection to our past. It presents a tangible reminder of the individuals and generations of families who settled in wilderness and transformed a remote frontier village into a thriving, vibrant city. This contribution to our understanding of Rockville's past was recognized in 2002 when the cemetery was designated a local historic district by the Mayor and Council.



Mausolea, like the Punphrey Mausoleum, are representative of the architectural and decorative styles popular at the time they were built.

With this designation come certain responsibilities to ensure the protection of this significant historic and cultural resource. As with any historic district in the City of Rockville, the cemetery has a Historic District (HD) overlay zone and any planned alterations that may affect its significant features must be reviewed by the City's Historic District Commission (HDC). To guide owners on how best to accommodate change at their historic properties, the City has developed guidelines applicable for its multi-building and single site historic districts. However, because the existing guidelines pertain primarily to architecture, they are not entirely applicable to Rockville Cemetery because it is predominately a landscape resource. Therefore, the City has produced these guidelines to assist the owner, the Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. (RCA) in planning for the cemetery's future while preserving its historic character.

The purposes of the Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines are as follows:

- To preserve and protect the existing character of the cemetery, including both the natural and built environments
- To identify individual features and overall characteristics that are significant and contribute to the character and integrity of the cemetery
- To provide guidance for alterations to existing features and buildings and discourage the introduction of incompatible and/or inappropriate alterations
- To encourage sympathetic and orderly changes to the site and development that are compatible with the historic setting and allows adequate open space for aesthetic and environmental purposes
- To create a development plan that is supported by the Mayor and Council, the Historic District Commission, and the RCA

The guidelines are not intended to regulate the use of the cemetery or impede the RCA's management of their property. Such regulation is proscribed in the Zoning and Planning Ordinance of the City of Rockville. Rather, they are intended to guide future design, and development of the grounds in order to retain the significant historical, cultural, landscape, and archaeological features of Rockville Cemetery. They are also intended for use by the HDC when making decisions regarding proposed changes at the cemetery. The HDC is charged with protecting the City's designated historic districts and the adopted guidelines assist in that process.



Family lots are an essential element of the rural cemetery, like the Beall Family lot.

Because Rockville Cemetery is an active cemetery, the RCA will need to work closely within the parameters of these guidelines in order to meet the demands of its customers while also preserving the site. These guidelines can assist the RCA in determining strategies for continuing its operation of the cemetery while maintaining the historic features and qualities of this historic district. Compliance with these guidelines does not preclude the RCA from following other recommendations, such as State and/or County regulations for cemetery development and operation, the City's Environmental Guidelines, and City permitting procedures.

The RCA has a demonstrated interest in preserving its historic property and, with these guidelines, can continue to serve as a good steward for this significant Rockville landmark. The RCA initiated historic district designation for the cemetery, which has culminated in naming Rockville Cemetery a local historic district.

Chapter 2

Historic District Commission

Rockville's Historic District Commission (HDC) was created in 1966 as a quasi-judicial body. The HDC is composed of five commissioners appointed by the Mayor for three-year terms. Commissioners must be qualified through their education, knowledge, training, or demonstrated interest in fields such as history, preservation, architecture, or urban design.

The HDC's two primary functions are recommending sites and districts for historic designation and issuing Certificates of Approval for changes to designated sites. The Commissioners also participate in discussions regarding historic preservation issues and resources at the request of the Mayor and Council and Planning Commission, as well as assist applicants with courtesy reviews for proposed alterations.

Historic Designation

The Annotated Code of Maryland has established the following five purposes for historic designation that have been adopted by the City of Rockville:

- Safeguarding the heritage of Rockville by preserving districts that reflect cultural, social, economic, political, or architectural history;
- Stabilizing and improving property values within these districts;
- Fostering civic beauty;
- Strengthening the local economy; and
- Promoting the use and preservation of historic districts for the education, welfare, and pleasure of the residents of Rockville.

The City of Rockville identifies its designated historic sites through rezoning and the sectional map amendment process. The Planning Commission or Mayor and Council may initiate sectional map amendments for historic districts, acting on the recommendation of the HDC. Once approved for designation, historic sites and districts are added to the official city zoning map, which shows Historic District (HD) zoning as an overlay zone. The underlying zone and use do not change. Rockville Cemetery, designated a historic district in 2002, is zoned R-90-HD.

As a 501(c)(13) non-profit cemetery company, Rockville Cemetery Association is eligible for tax benefits for approved work at the cemetery. The state's Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program allows non-profit companies to claim a refund of 20% of expenditures, provided the changes have been approved by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Guidelines Process

The City of Rockville is a Certified Local Government (CLG), which means that the City has taken on certain responsibilities for identifying and managing its significant historical and cultural resources. To retain Rockville's CLG status, the Mayor and Council are required to provide design guidelines to owners of designated historic properties. The purpose of design guidelines is twofold, to inform property owners of actions that are encouraged or discouraged to protect individual elements and overall character. They also assist the Historic District Commission (HDC) in making decisions regarding changes to designated properties. State law suggests that the City prepare these guidelines for each distinct historic district.

The design guidelines for historic properties in Rockville are based on the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (Appendix B). The HDC and Mayor and Council for historic preservation in Rockville have adopted the *Standards* as a general guide. The City's existing design guidelines, *Adopted Architectural Design Guidelines for the Exterior Rehabilitation of Buildings in Rockville's Historic Districts* and the subsequently distributed Technical Guides for Exterior Alterations, expand on the *Standards* and adapt them to the City's resources.

The *Adopted Architectural Design Guidelines* apply to Rockville's largest historic districts, such as the West Montgomery Avenue and South Washington Street Historic Districts, and to many individually designated buildings. However, because they were prepared for architectural resources, with particular emphasis on residential architecture, they are not entirely applicable to the types of physical resources and preservation issues encountered at Rockville Cemetery. They will be useful to the RCA, however, for adding or altering any buildings on the property, such as the Caretaker's Cottage or a future mausoleum or chapel; and for signage, fencing, and parking issues. The Technical Guides for Exterior Alterations are included in Appendix B and copies of the full guidelines are available in the City of Rockville website Historic Rockville's section or by request at City Hall.

This document will further develop the ideas presented in the *Standards for Treatment* and the City's guidelines, tailoring them to the cemetery's particular design needs. These guidelines have been produced in association with the RCA in order to define their responsibilities and those responsibilities of the HDC in managing the historic resources at Rockville Cemetery. The draft guidelines were presented to the full board of the RCA for its review. The guidelines were then submitted to the HDC for its review and comments. The HDC recommended the guidelines to the Mayor and Council for adoption and they were adopted in 2004.

Certificate of Approval Process

With historic district designation, owners of historic properties must obtain approval from the HDC for exterior changes to their property. Through the Certificate of Approval application process, the HDC is able to effectively manage changes to Rockville's designated historic sites and districts. Like other owners, the RCA must apply for a Certificate of Approval when certain alterations to the cemetery are proposed. The Certificate is necessary to receive other permits from the City to begin work. At Rockville Cemetery, changes requiring a Cer-

tificate of Approval could include repairs or additions to the Caretaker's Cottage; landscape grading; removal of mature trees; removal, addition or alteration of fences; and paving of paths, roadways, or parking areas, among others. A matrix of common actions and indications of their level of approval is included as Appendix A of this document.

When the application for a Certificate of Approval is submitted, it is reviewed for the potential of the proposed alterations to impact individual historic features as well as the overall character of the property. This review takes place at the HDC's monthly meeting. Applications to be reviewed at the next HDC meeting must be submitted during the previous thirty days. The HDC has 45 days from the date of application acceptance to act upon the request or a Certificate of Approval is automatically issued. Using these guidelines to direct decision-making, the HDC can approve, deny, or approve with conditions a Certificate of Approval.

In the cases of fences and signage, the City's Historic Preservation Planning staff can approve Certificates of Approval if the plans conform to these design guidelines and the technical guides no. 6 and 9. Staff can also approve tree removal applications, pursuant to an opinion from the City Forester. Owners are encouraged to consult with staff to determine if a specific project requires a Certificate of Approval. It is important to note that the HDC or staff does not review for ordinary maintenance or in-kind replacement. However, these changes may require other permits from the City.

When large-scale changes are planned at the cemetery, such as alterations to roads, additions to the Caretaker's Cottage, or development of a new section that will require major landscaping, a courtesy review is strongly recommended. An HDC courtesy review is an informal, non-binding review of a concept or design proposal. Suggestions are offered to maintain and enhance the existing historic character of the site. Courtesy reviews take place at the HDC's regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

For a courtesy review, the RCA must provide a proportional sketch showing the existing site conditions and the proposed alterations. The submission need not be a finished plan, but rather a concept plan. If there is a project designer, he or she should attend the meeting along with a representative of the RCA. It is possible to have multiple courtesy reviews depending on the scale of the project.

Chapter 3

Rockville Cemetery Association

Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. (RCA) owns and manages the Rockville Cemetery property, selling lots, maintaining the premises, and overseeing development. The RCA was incorporated in May 2001 and received 501(c)(13) tax-exempt cemetery company status in July 2003. The RCA formed to replace the essentially defunct Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, which was created in 1880. The charter for this latter organization had expired and the cemetery had been in disrepair for several decades. In a quit-claim deed dated April 2002, Claude Vess, the sole surviving director of the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, transferred all of the cemetery's assets to the new RCA, including the cemetery acreage and accumulated funds for the cemetery's operation and maintenance.



Flowering Katura tree by the Talbott monument.

Today, the Rockville Cemetery Association owns parcels 318 and 216 on tax map GR62 and parcel 244 on map GR52 for a total of 26.46 acres. The historic district also includes the City-owned parcel 273 that divides the cemetery into the upper (west) and lower (east) sections for a total of 28.28 acres within the historic district. The total acreage is zoned R-90-HD.

Rockville Cemetery is an active burial ground. Both the upper and lower portions are open to burials, which occur with regularity. Lots are sold and burials arranged through the RCA Board and the records of all cemetery transactions reside with the President. It is the intent of RCA to continue to provide burial spaces and to further develop the cemetery property for this purpose. Additional provisions such as crematorium services and sales of flowers, caskets, and monuments may be possible in the future pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

While the cemetery has managed the overall cemetery design and organization of plots, individual monument designs traditionally have not required RCA oversight. The result is myriad forms, heights, and materials, depicting the various historical and artistic trends of the eras represented by the cemetery as well as a depiction of the socio-economic position of Rockville's families. The RCA has also historically allowed plot owners to plant trees, bulbs, and shrubs of their choice, many of which have reached maturity. The grounds, including both natural growth and the intentional plantings, are maintained by contract with a

landscaping firm. This variety is an essential element of the cemetery's overall character. These guidelines seek to continue to the atmosphere of variety within the cemetery while not overwhelming the character of the previously developed sections.

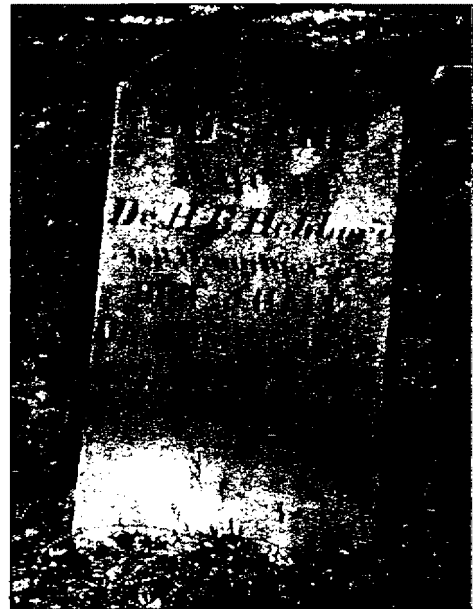
In addition to grounds maintenance, the RCA is also responsible for the upkeep of the Caretaker's Cottage. Renters, who provide a presence on the cemetery grounds, but no services to the RCA, occupy the house.

Chapter 4

Historical Development of Rockville Cemetery

In order to identify those features that have cultural, historical, architectural, and/or artistic significance, it is first important to understand the history and development of the cemetery and its place within the larger contexts of the history of Rockville, Montgomery County, and cemetery planning and design. This information summarizes the history of Rockville Cemetery from the Historic Property Inventory Form, which is included in Appendix C, and focuses specifically on the cemetery's physical development over time.

Rockville Cemetery has a complicated history for several reasons, including its more than 250 year existence, multiple expansions through land donations and purchases, inconsistent availability of funds, and periods of neglect during both church and secular management. The early history of the cemetery is tied to the Anglican, later the Episcopal, Church in Maryland. The cemetery was the burial ground for a colonial chapel of ease, called Rock Creek Chapel, which served residents of the upper part of Prince George's Parish. In the late 19th century, it became a secular burial ground operated by the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County. Today's Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. conscientiously manages the property.



Headstone of Susan J. Hebbard, died March 27, 1842

Historical Overview

Rockville Cemetery is situated on land that was originally donated to the Anglican Church by Thomas Williams. In 1738, Williams offered two acres of his 164-acre tract called Mill Land situated on Rock Creek to the Vestry of Prince George's Parish. His donation responded to the needs of area residents for a chapel of ease since the nearest Anglican house of worship was in Georgetown. It is believed that the chapel was constructed sometime between April 1739, when reference is made in the Vestry records "to build a chapel" and 1744, when the General Assembly of Maryland named the small frame building a "chapel of ease" for the parish.

In 1751, the chapel grounds were cleared and enclosed with a fence, but no mention is made of any burials. The oldest legible grave marker dates from 1752, although it is quite possible that there were earlier burials since the chapel had been in existence for at least eight years. The stone belongs to John Harding, a long-time Vestryman whose family owned the adjacent property to the south. The fence around the churchyard was improved in 1761, but again, no mention is made of burials or grave markers in the Vestry records.

The chapel was enlarged several times and was proposed for replacement as early as 1790. By 1794, the chapel was described as being in poor condition, but no funds were available to construct a new building. In 1799, the Vestry began taking subscriptions to build a new chapel in place of the old one and in 1802; they contracted with William Orr for construction of a new brick building. The new church was consecrated as Christ Church in 1808 but was so poorly built that by 1815 the Vestry began raising funds to replace the substandard structure. During this time, the cemetery continued to expand over the hilltop adjacent to the church.

Land for a new church in the center of Rockville was donated in 1821 by Solomon Holland and the new Christ Episcopal Church was erected at 109 S. Washington Street the following year. Thus the focus of the church shifted away from the old property on Baltimore Road, where the first two church buildings had stood and the cemetery continued to fill. In 1855, after the two-acre parcel had been in use for over a hundred years, the Vestry began to discuss expanding the small cemetery. By 1860,



The upper cemetery was designed to be a landscape of mourning.

the problem of overcrowding was acute and the vestry determined that no more burials could be made without the approval of the minister and vestry and after public notice in the newspaper. Burials tapered off over the next two decades and maintenance of the cemetery all but ceased. As noted in an 1873 article in the Montgomery County Sentinel, the cemetery was essentially abandoned by this date, no longer in use for burials and in a poor state with unmarked graves and fallen markers.

In 1880, the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County was incorporated to take over responsibility for the cemetery. The Board of Directors included Judge Richard Johns Bowie, President; William Veirs Bouic, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer; W. R. Pumphrey, Superintendent; and James B. Henderson, Hezekiah Trail, Nicholas D. Offutt, Elijah B. Prettyman, and Dr. Edward E. Stonestreet. Other members included John England, Jr., John Edmonston, Thomas Anderson, Hattersly Talbott, David Bouic, and Albert Almony.

Immediately after its formation, the Rockville Cemetery Association received a donation of five acres—the original two acres from the Vestry of Prince George's Parish and three additional acres from Judge Richard Johns Bowie. Judge Bowie was the owner of Glenview Mansion adjacent to the cemetery. This donation marked an important turning point for the

cemetery and the community it served. It is unknown if burials were restricted to Episcopal use when the church moved from 1822, but the appointment of an interdenominational board in 1880 shows a definitive shift toward a true community cemetery for Rockville. The cemetery had been referred to as the Old Protestant Burying Ground or Protestant Episcopal Church Cemetery up to this point, but into the 20th century, it began to be referred to as Rockville Union Cemetery, probably in reference to the unified use of the property by various religions.

With the new ownership and increased acreage, Rockville Cemetery was again active with a sound financial footing. In 1889, the Cemetery Association was able to house its caretaker in a new home built by Reuben Pumphrey, a Rockville carpenter and undertaker, at the southwest corner of the property. In the following year, Rockville prohibited burials within the corporation limits except in existing family cemeteries or adjacent to parish churches. Residents of the Rockville area then were required to patronize cemeteries such as the privately operated Rockville Cemetery, which lay outside the town boundaries at the time. In the meantime, the town's population continued to increase rapidly. A donation in 1890 from Catherine Bowie, Judge Bowie's widow, added two acres at the north end of the cemetery and helped meet the demand for cemetery space. More land was acquired in 1898 when .67 acres were added from the adjacent Catholic cemetery on the south side of Baltimore Road.

In 1894, the Cemetery Association appointed an Executive Committee (also called the Ladies' Auxiliary) with Rebecca T. Veirs, Nettie C. Offutt, and Emma Holland as initial members. In that year, the committee is said to have located the foundation of the colonial chapel of ease near the burial lot of Upton Beall. In 1897, 16 burials from Rockville's Baptist Cemetery were reinterred here due to the construction of Van Buren Street. It should be noted, that during this period burials in Rockville Cemetery were restricted to white persons. Black residents of Rockville buried their dead in segregated cemeteries, including family cemeteries on Avery Road, and Martin's Lane, and the circa 1917 Lincoln Park cemetery, operated by the Galilean Fishermen.

The largest addition to the cemetery property came in 1933, when the Cemetery Association purchased the adjacent parcel to the east from Carrie E. Clark, William D. Clark, and Frank Karn. The transaction added 18.5 acres, including the small stream Little Falls Branch. The purchase more than doubled the size of Rockville Cemetery. This section, now called the "lower cemetery," was laid out in 1939 by Philadelphia landscape architect Robert Cridland.

Another small addition to the cemetery came in 1936, when the Cemetery Association obtained a parcel containing .2 acres from Hattersly and Katherine Talbott. The most recent land transaction occurred in 1969 when the City gave 1.8 acres adjoining the north boundary of the upper cemetery in exchange for parcel 273, a strip of land surrounding Little Falls Branch, also approximately 1.8 acres in size. The cemetery and the burgeoning suburban residential neighborhoods surrounding it were annexed into the City of Rockville in 1984.

In the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, the cemetery again experienced a period of neglect. The charter of the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County had long expired and the grounds fell into disrepair. In 2002, the Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. was estab-

lished and took over the ownership and management of the property. Its first president, Dr. Stephen Cromwell, is the great-grandson of Rebecca T. Veirs. There has been renewed community interest in the restoration and maintenance of Rockville Cemetery.

Design History and Significance

In the earliest days of the settlement of Maryland, burials took place on homesteads. This practice continued well into the 19th century, particularly in rural areas, but families also began to bury their dead in churchyards as churches and chapels were erected. The Rockville Cemetery developed from such a churchyard. Initially a colonial chapel of ease burying ground, Rockville Cemetery was likely simple and unorganized, with no formal plantings. Colonial graves were often marked by rock cairns or wood markers initially because of the difficulty and expense of acquiring carved stones. Sometimes professionally carved stones ~~months~~ replaced the uncarved markers years after burial. In the early years, these permanent markers had to be shipped from locations such as Georgetown, Baltimore, or Frederick.

The marker of John Harding, earliest remaining marker, dates from 1752. It is possible that there were other burials present at the time and perhaps burials in vaults under the church, which was a common practice in Anglican churches and chapels of this period. The initial external burials were traditionally located to the east of the church building. The Harding marker is situated east of the location of the chapel foundation in the upper cemetery near the Caretaker's Cottage.

Prompted by concern over disease and issues of overcrowding, many towns were following the example of the New Haven Burying Ground, founded in 1796, which removed the cemetery from both the city center and the religious building with which it had been associated. The New Haven Burying Ground, essentially the first planned cemetery in the United States, placed a much greater emphasis on individual ownership and control. The cemetery was divided into sections and laid out on grid plan. For the first time, large family lots were sold and the purchasers were expected to surround their plots with a hedge, fence, or wall and perhaps adorn their property with plantings.¹

This approach to privatizing cemeteries became the norm. When Christ Church relocated in the 1820s, it essentially followed the trend of locating burial grounds outside the city center. As stated in the deed, the S. Washington Street lot was not to be used as a graveyard, so the burial place remained at a distance from the growing town of Rockville.²

Rockville Cemetery was also gridded and arranged for the purchase of plots by families, rather than individuals, as had been the practice before the spread of New Haven's innovative design. One description of smaller cemeteries seems especially relevant to Rockville:

Even in those towns that retained the old graveyard, the appearance of burial places changed. Marble markers, granite obelisks, and replicated statues replaced slate and sandstone markers. Maples, oaks, and elms were planted along roadways. Paths were

topographic complexity, curvilinear roads, and picturesque vistas. Cemeteries became places to visit and enjoy, with planned paths for walking and carriage roads. Family plots came to dominate the landscape, often with a large family marker and much smaller individual stones. Single lots were available, but were kept separated from the more opulent family plots. The pathways, integral steps, and circular carriage drive around Rockville Cemetery's upper section are testaments to this mid-to-late 19th century idea of cemeteries as parks. The tendency to keep individual plots separate from family plots is demonstrated in Rockville in Section L (on a terrace) and at the north end of Section C (at the north border of the cemetery property until 1890).

The cemetery continued to follow national trends in cemetery design with the plan for the lower cemetery, designed in 1939. This portion of the cemetery grounds follows some aspects of the lawn-park period of cemetery design. This style strove to balance the formal cemetery with the natural environment as described as follows:

Family monuments set in large lawn areas replaced individual markers. The clutter of the individually enclosed family lots was replaced with a more unified, park like landscape. Few clusters of trees or shrubs interrupted the expanses of lawn.⁵

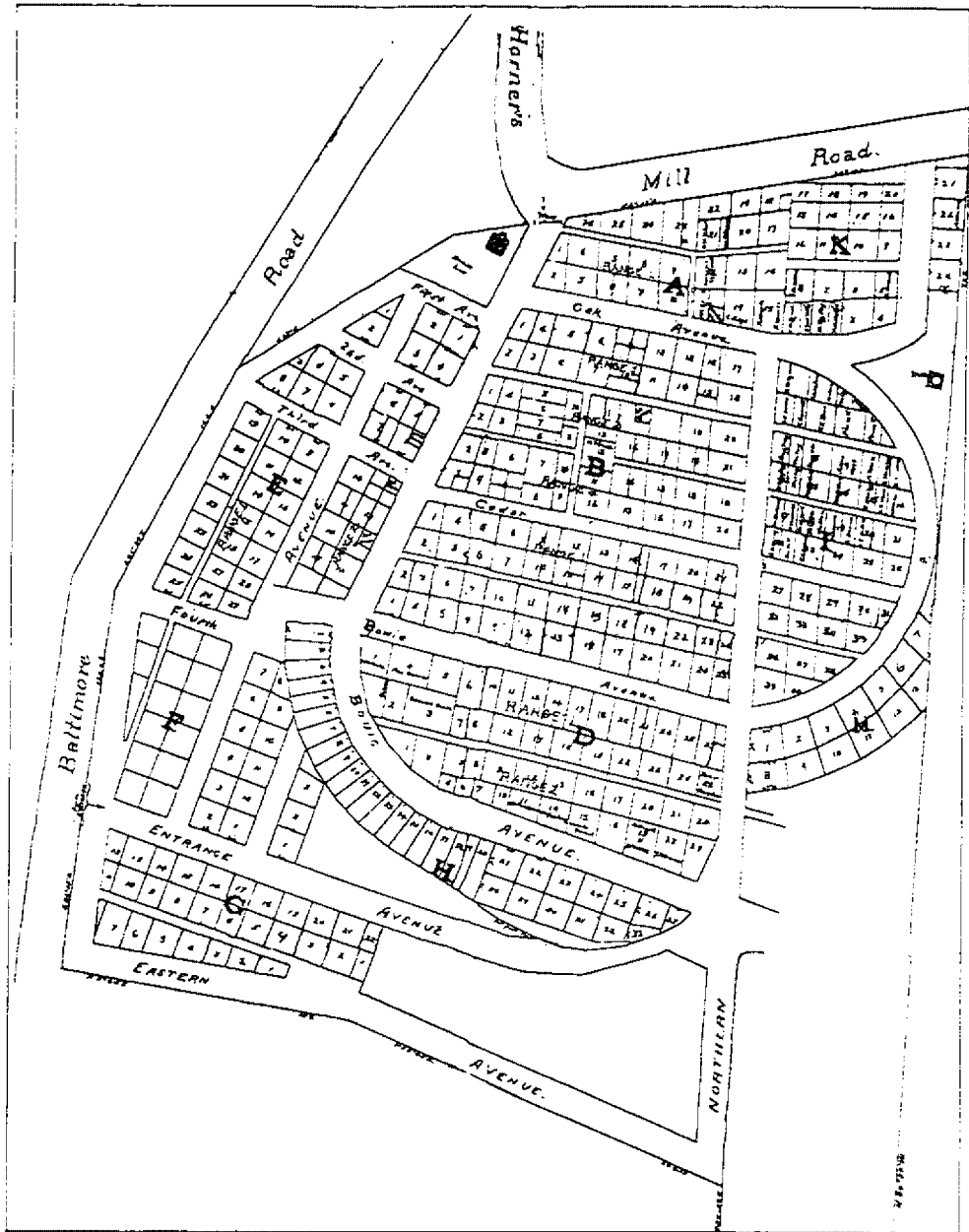
The lower cemetery was laid out by Robert Cridland, a notable landscape architect and author of the book *Practical Landscape Gardening*, first published in 1916. Cridland is known for his garden designs at such properties as Oak Hill (now part of Berry College) in Rome, Georgia; the Cator Woolford Estate in Athens, Georgia; and Avondale Estate outside of Atlanta. This latter property was developed in the 1920s as one of the first planned suburban communities in the southeastern United States. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in

1986 for its significance in planning, architecture, and landscape design. Cridland's method of grouping trees within an open lawn setting indicates a reliance on lawn-park style cemetery design. The openness of the cemetery also made maintenance of the grounds easier, with fewer trees around which to maneuver mowers. His notion that "drives and walks must be as direct as possible without being forced or twisted; they should approach by means of straight lines or easy, graceful curves"⁶ is the exact opposite of the rural cemetery movement. The latter used intentionally curved carriage drives and meandering, indirect routes that took advantage of topography and vistas. Cridland's methods mesh with the straightforwardness of the lawn-park cemetery.



The rural cemetery introduced conceptual landscapes, which contrasted with the earlier burial grounds.

In addition to Rockville Cemetery's illustration of national trends with its layout and design, the individual monuments themselves also follow stylistic and iconographical customs as



Plan of the Rockville Cemetery; circa 1890.

left between rows of graves, and shrubs were planted near monuments. Fences and coping were allowed on new family lots.³

Thus the heavily vegetated 'romantic image of a tree covered Colonial burial ground is largely a 19th century phenomenon.'⁴ Trees were planted not only in new cemeteries or newer sections, but in colonial cemeteries as well.

Rockville Cemetery was also influenced by the rural cemetery movement and was designed to be park-like. Following the example of Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded in 1831, cemetery planners began to choose sites and to landscape their grounds to incorporate

they developed. John Harding's 1752 stone displays crude carvings of an hourglass and skull-and-crossbones, following a longstanding Anglo-European tradition of using such symbols denoting the brevity of life and the finality of death. These solemn images were replaced with development of religious thought and a more positive outlook on death and the afterlife. Broken columns and obelisks and urns draped with cloth presented more sublime references to death. Nineteenth century markers included images of weeping figures, willows, and drapery, which denote sorrow, grieving, and solitude. In the later nineteenth century, hands grasped in greeting, representing a welcome into heaven, and a single finger pointing upward toward heaven indicate the hope of the afterlife. The death of a child was symbolized by the image of a lamb or a flower with a broken stem. Sentimental symbols of angels, roses, and garlands became common nationally as well as in Rockville. Cemetery.

From its colonial roots through the present, the Rockville cemetery has continued to exhibit common national trends in cemetery design and themes in mortuary art. It follows colonial traditions, the ideals of the rural cemetery movement, and the lawn-park style of cemetery design in a vernacular tradition common to smaller cities and consistent with the development of Rockville.



Typical for the Victorian era, the Offutt Family plot is enclosed by an iron fence and features a large, central, family monument.



The symbols on John Harding's headstone, an angel ascending, hourglass, and skull and cross bones, are typical of early burials and denote the brevity of life and the finality of death.



The lamb on Edward Beall's, who was just 19 months old when he died, symbolizes the innocence of youth.

Chapter 5

Significant Features

As a general rule of preservation, when determining appropriate measures for maintaining and preserving historic sites, it is first important to identify those features from which the significance of the site is derived. These features are what the HDC seeks to protect in order to preserve the site's integrity. Without integrity, a historic site is no longer able to convey its meaning, significance, and historical connections.

Rockville Cemetery is designated as a historic district because of its ability to convey a sense of Rockville's history through its appearance and setting and because of its design, which follows traditional trends in cemetery arrangement and places it within the larger context of American cemetery design and development. So then what makes Rockville Cemetery significant? What individual elements contribute to our understanding of the cemetery as a historic place? How do these features combine to create an overall sense of the cemetery's historical design and importance?

Rockville Cemetery is comprised of thousands of individual burial markers. These certainly comprise the most prominent physical feature of the cemetery but it is important to note there are many other elements that unite to create the overall character, feeling, and setting of the cemetery and make it a significant place. The features that contribute to the cemetery's ability to reflect Rockville history and cemetery design history include the following:

- Overall plan including topography and plot and roadway arrangement
- Circulation systems, including roads, paths, curbs, and other structural elements
- Structural objects, including markers, fences, walls, the Caretaker's Cottage, etc.
- Landscape elements including ground cover, trees, and shrubs
- Other infrastructure such water and drainage systems, security, etc.

Each of these features is described more fully below and, in considering Certificate of Approval applications, each must be assessed for its individual significance within its setting and for its overall contribution to the cemetery's character.



Cridland's design for the lower cemetery illustrates the ideals of lawn-park style cemetery design with the grouping trees within an open lawn setting.

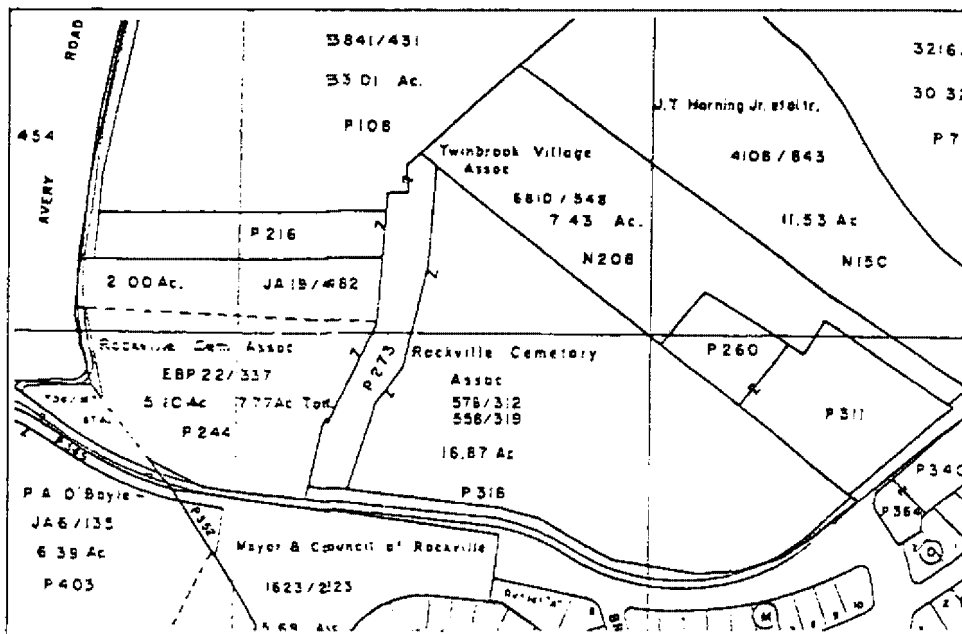
Overall Plan and Infrastructure

The cemetery is essentially divided in half by a small tributary of Rock Creek. This separation is a physical one as well as temporal with the older section (upper cemetery) to the west and the newer one (lower cemetery) to the east of Little Falls Branch. Access to the two halves is through separate entrances - Avery Road for the upper cemetery and Baltimore Road for the lower cemetery. Although contiguous, the two halves are not connected internally by paths or roadways over the stream. Cridland's design attempted to unite the two sections, by designing a road that winds back and forth over the stream, but the roadway was never completed.

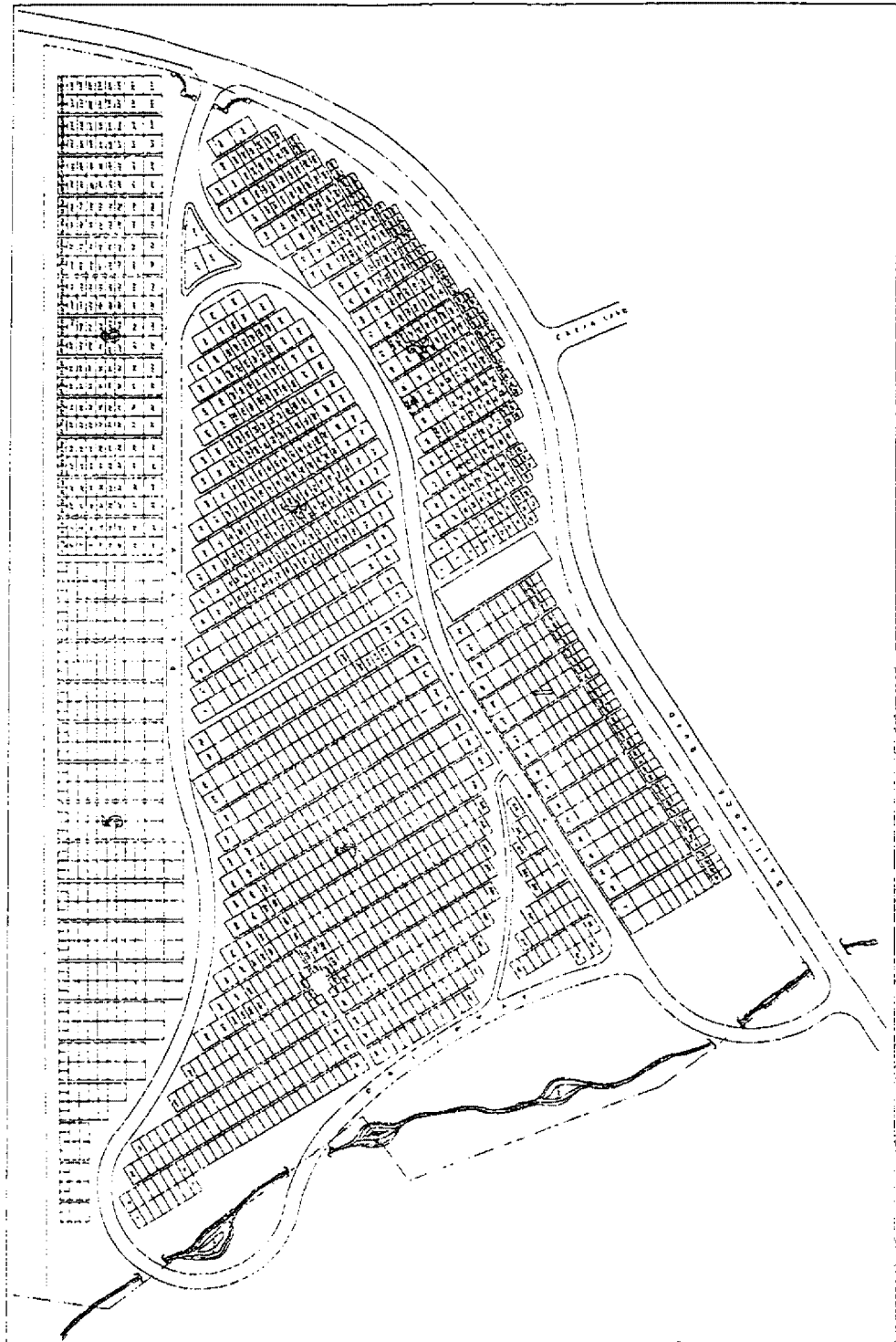
The upper cemetery is located on a hill with terracing at the eastern end. Only parcel P244 is in use; parcel P216, ceded to the RCA in 1969, has not yet been developed. This parcel remains forested with fairly young trees and undergrowth. In the developed part of the upper cemetery, the landscape is defined by both naturally occurring and intentionally planted conifer and deciduous trees. Monuments here are tightly grouped and a system of roads and paths provides access throughout the property. Monuments vary in date from 1752 through the present, and their styles, shapes, sizes, colors, and materials reflect the trends in mortuary art over the centuries.

The lower cemetery, parcel 318, is located on nearly flat terrain. Only a small portion of this 16.87-acre parcel has been cleared for use. One paved road runs through this section, with burials to the south of the road and heavy forestation on the north. The land is low-lying and contains several natural springs as well as the stream. The burials are gridded and orderly, with stones arranged in straight lines.

The organization of the cemetery contributes to its significance by providing a setting steeped in the history of Rockville's settlement, religious development, and people. It also



caption to go here for this diagram.



Map depicting the lower cemetery – dated 1936.

conveys through its layout and appearance the development of the cemetery itself and historic trends of cemetery organization and design. John W. Anderson, draftsman, rendered the only period plan of the upper cemetery after 1890. This plan shows the cemetery divided into lettered sections. Individual plans of each section show the division into plots. As laid

out by the late 19th century, the cemetery was orderly for the most part. The sections where pathways are misaligned or end in angles may indicate areas where burials were already in place when the grids were platted. The use of terraces and curved carriage drives reflects a reliance on the ideals of the 19th century rural cemetery movement. It is believed that the dramatic terraces were created around the turn of the century, as they are not shown on Anderson's plan.

Lots in the upper cemetery vary somewhat in size and are generally large. The differences reflect the different periods of development of the cemetery, from its initial start in close proximity to a country church, spreading out to accommodate more burials during the late 18th and 19th centuries, finally, to include an organized system of plots superimposed on the existing layout. Many family plots contain upwards of a dozen burials. Single burial sites are located in Section L and at the north end of Section C. Sections H and M also have small single sites at their northern ends, primarily for the burial of infants and children.

By examining the grounds, the areas where the oldest burials are located (Section C) can be studied and the pattern of use can be traced as it spread outward. When Catherine Bowie donated two acres in 1890, a curved drive was added to the north of the original Northern Avenue. When the grounds were terraced, additional burials stretched into the southeastern portion of the grounds. And finally, when the lower cemetery was added, burials began to take place in a new environment, and in a new fashion – on flat ground with few impediments – which had become the style for cemetery design in the 20th century. In the lower cemetery the lots graduate in size with the largest located adjacent to the interior drive, medium-sized lots in the center, and individual plots closer to Baltimore Road.

Circulation System

Primary in significance to the upper cemetery is the hierarchical system of roads and paths. Circulation in this half of Rockville Cemetery is controlled with primary, secondary, and tertiary corridors, determined by their width and surface material. This system was probably based on an informal pattern determined by convenience in the days of the colonial burial ground. However, after the cemetery was brought under the management of the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, the roads were formally designed and laid according to a plan that drew on the ideals of the rural cemetery movement. Curving carriage drives that skirted the cemetery's perimeter and provided views over the adjacent countryside were important. Smaller pathways were planned to provide access to plots in an orderly fashion.



The gently curving primary corridor of Bowie Avenue illustrates the ideals of the rural cemetery movement.

The upper portion of Rockville Cemetery follows this general layout with a wide paved drive along the cemetery's hilltop circumference. This wide carriage driveway was "macadamized" either initially or soon after construction using a system developed in the early 19th

century by John MacAdam. Macadam roads consisted layers of crushed rock, gravel, and binding material. They were the first to allow for greater weights and easier transportation and later became the basis for tarmac and asphalt road construction. The size of the macadamized primary routes in the cemetery is wider to accommodate carriages. Primary roads include the circuitous route around the grounds on Bouic, Northern, and Oak Avenues as well as the extended Bowie Avenue in Section I. The

gutters and curbs that run along the outer edges of the paved primary roads were added later. These are constructed of pre-cast concrete and appear to be similar in design and material to those in the lower cemetery. It is likely that they were installed in the upper cemetery at the same time the roads were built in the lower cemetery in the late 1930s.



Example of the "macadamized" roads of the upper cemetery.

In the central sections of the upper cemetery (B, C, and D), the secondary and tertiary routes alternate and run north-south in straight runs. The secondary roads are narrower than the paved primary roads. Although they appear to have been macadamized at one point, they were not maintained as such, so they are now grass over gravel. The secondary roads, named Park, Cedar, and Bowie Avenues, do not have curbs and gutters. Tertiary routes are unnamed narrow grass walks ranging in width from four to six feet. In the surrounding sections (A, E, F, G, I, K, L, and M) all the paths are grass.

Steps to assist visitors with the hilly terrain complement the circulation system in the upper cemetery. The steps are concrete, some with concrete wing walls, and some with granite wing walls where the steps interrupt a granite retaining wall. They are present only on or leading to the tertiary corridors to accommodate those on foot. These steps relay a sense of the importance of the pedestrian in the cemetery's historic design. They show that the designer wanted the visitor to feel welcome and able to walk extensively around the grounds. The idea of a cemetery as a park is evident in the design of the entire circulation system.



Steps relay the importance of the pedestrian in the cemetery's historic design.

In the lower cemetery, only one paved road runs through the grounds. It is an east-west road, nearly straight and flat, that curves southward to provide cemetery access from Baltimore Road at either end. While the lower cemetery was platted with grass footpaths running north-south, they are narrow and are difficult to distinguish among the markers. There is evidence of a drive that veered to the north at the western end of the lower cemetery. This road is shown on Cridland's design and was apparently cleared at one time. However, it was

never paved and has returned to a more natural state. Because the lower cemetery is on flat terrain, there is no need for steps. The lack of topographical and structural features is consistent with its period of design.

The lower cemetery road crosses Little Falls Branch over a culvert constructed in the 1940s of concrete with granite block facing. The center is arched and carries the stream under the roadway through a metal pipe. Although uncharacteristic of its period of construction, when most streams of this size were carried through unornamented concrete box culverts, this charming bridge is a notable feature of the lower cemetery.

Other Systems

A historic cistern of unknown date is located in the upper cemetery at the northern end of Oak Avenue to deliver water to the Caretaker's Cottage. This cistern may also have supplied water to a watering system in the upper cemetery. Handpumps located at various points along the paved roads in the upper cemetery offer evidence of this system, which provided water for grounds keeping purposes and for filling vases for fresh flowers placed at gravesites. The pump system is believed to date from the early to mid-20th century.

The cemetery also has an integral drainage system, installed when curbs were added to the road. The system provides gutters along the paved roadways and periodically spaced drains. The drains are covered with concrete lids, which are equipped with metal grips for lifting them out of place to clean out debris. The system is constructed of reinforced concrete and appears to date to the early to mid-20th century.

The lower cemetery appears to have no internal watering system, but at one time a weir, or water control device, was in place on Little Falls Branch. This weir has a valve for pumping out water and a concrete block water retainer. It is unknown how these structures operated in relation to the lower cemetery. There are also several culverts in the lower cemetery. These divert some of the natural springs in the lower cemetery and may drain rainwater away from the burial grounds.

While these systems in the upper and lower portions of the cemetery do present historical information about how the grounds were designed and how the cemetery operated, they are not considered of primary significance to the site.

Electricity is present only at the Caretaker's Cottage. The cemetery itself is not wired and there is no lighting. There is also no security system in place at the cemetery, although there is also a partial fence on Avery Road. The presence of residents in the house may also act as a deterrent to vandalism or other security issues.

Individual and Family Plot Markers

The single most notable features of any cemetery are the grave markers. These are the primary visual indicators of the property's purpose and use. At Rockville Cemetery, the markers follow traditional designs and use materials consistent with their date of erection. In general they face eastward, which is customary in Christian cemeteries. Their form, sizes,

colors, and pattern on the landscape contribute significantly to the aesthetic character of Rockville Cemetery.

Individual monuments

Individual grave markers at the cemetery range from simple tablets to grand mausoleums. They are sandstone, marble, slate, and granite in shades of gray, brown, pink, and black. A headstone marks most graves and many have a footstone as well. Obelisks, tablets, columns, crosses, and vaults covered with concrete or stone slabs are some of the many forms seen here. Decorative features include urns, willows, and drapery to symbolize mourning, lambs representing innocence (found on children's stones), broken columns and hourglasses signifying mortality and the brevity of life, and even modern laser inscriptions based on photographs of a subject desired by the purchaser. The 1854 marker for Henry H. Young features a graceful carving of a willow tree. Ursula Wilcoxon's 1876 stone features a Sacred Heart of Jesus, an anchor and a cross symbolizing in Christ we have "an anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19). One notable modern example of the laser technology is the Wilmot marker in the lower cemetery, which depicts Summit Hall in Gaithersburg, "the First Turf Farm of America."

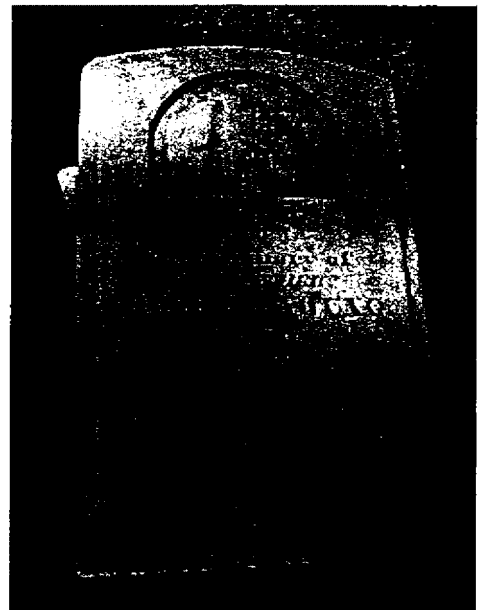
Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, Egyptian Revival, Victorian, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and Streamlined Modernism are some of the styles reflected in the mortuary art at Rockville Cemetery. Like architecture and decorative art, the grave markers reflect contemporary design trends and the tastes of the purchaser. Every grave marker is significant within Rockville cemetery as representative of its period and for its contribution to the overall visual pattern of the cemetery. Many are emblematic of a particular custom or style, while others are unique expressions of the individual or family buried there.

Family plots

Many of the monuments at Rockville Cemetery mark individual graves, notably in Section L



The shaking hands on the headstone of John H. Settle symbolize a welcome to the afterlife.



The willow tree, a common icon in Victorian cemeteries, represents perpetual mourning and grief.

and parts of Sections C, H, and M. Much of the cemetery, however, was sold in larger plots for family use. Within each family plot are often individual headstones and footstones as described above as well as the frequent appearance of a large central monument bearing the family name.

A number of structural elements can be found throughout the upper cemetery to demarcate family plots. These include walls, fences, hedges, gates, cornerstones, and steps. These elements, generally dating to the mid-19th through the early 20th century, are critical to the historic integrity of the cemetery and are significant in showing the importance placed on the concept of family, both immediate and extended. Their use as traditional boundary markers has been eclipsed in the 20th century (and in the lower cemetery) by new styles and the need for efficiency in grounds maintenance.

In the absence of walled or fenced boundaries, cornerstones were and still are used to mark plot boundaries in both the upper and lower portions of the cemetery. These are short marble or granite markers ranging from flush to the ground surface to about a foot in height. They feature flat or pyramidal tops, generally bearing the initial of the family buried within the plot.

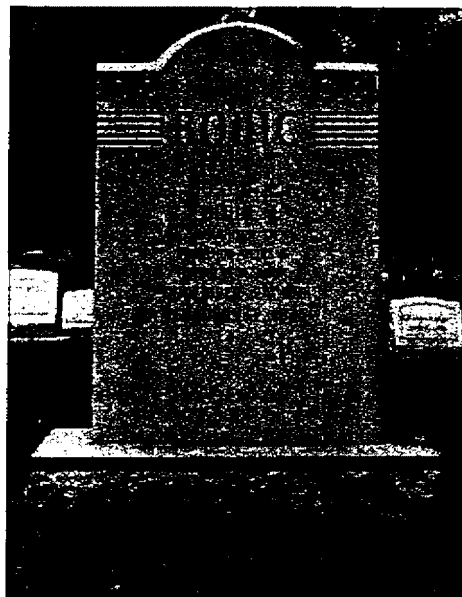
Family plot structures and objects are all considered significant features within Rockville Cemetery. They are also useful for the visitor in understanding the layout and division of the grounds. They are particularly prominent in the upper cemetery where they reflect a common mortuary tradition for wealthier families in the 19th and early 20th centuries of enclosing family plots.

Other Structural Elements

The most notable structural feature at the cemetery, other than the numerous grave-stones, is the Caretaker's Cottage. Carpenter and builder Reuben Pumphrey constructed the residence in 1889 to house a superintendent for the cemetery grounds. The house is typical of its period of construction in



Ursula Wilcoxon's 1876 stone features a Sacred Heart of Jesus, an anchor and a cross symbolizing in Christ we have "an anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19).



Art Deco design influenced the style of Eulalie Bouic's headstone.

its form, massing, and details. Although covered with vinyl siding, the house still reflects a strong sense of history. Many of the 6/6 windows are paired, the porch columns are turned, and the historic outbuildings are still present, all contributing to the integrity of the residential site. It also demonstrates the importance of on-site staff for maintaining the cemetery grounds and overseeing burials.



Constructed in 1889, the residence housed the cemetery grounds superintendent.

There are several mausolea at Rockville Cemetery, both in the upper and lower sections. Like individual markers, the mausolea are representative of the architectural and decorative styles popular at the time they were built. Generally constructed of marble or granite, these large above-ground tombs are considered significant features that contribute to the visual pattern of the cemetery on the landscape.



The shed for the Caretaker's Cottage.

Throughout the upper cemetery are several retaining walls constructed where roads were cut into elevated areas of the landscape and at the entrance off Avery Road. These walls are made of coursed, roughly cut granite blocks. On the entrance pylons, the granite is coursed ashlar with pyramidal caps. Where the pointing is original, it appears to be finished with beaded joints, although some walls and the pylons have been repointed using notched joints. These walls provide an interesting visual component to the cemetery. Their appearance and method of construction are historically significant.

As previously mentioned in the discussion of the cemetery's circulation system, the steps are also notable structural elements. Their appearance and construction methods are historic and warrant preservation.



This wrought iron fence is an example of some of the metalwork found within the cemetery.

The remainder of a bow and picket cast iron fence is present in the upper cemetery along Avery Road. Although pieces are now missing from the fence, its presence is a significant feature in the cemetery. The circa 1890 fence is connected to the northern pylon at the main entrance and extends northward. It is typical of its period in its style and material and indicates a significant historic investment towards the beautification and protection of the cemetery. At the northern end of the cemetery, a cast iron gatepost is located where Oak Avenue originally met Avery Road.

All of the above structural elements are considered significant.

Landscape Elements

Both the upper and lower cemeteries have landscape elements that are significant indicators of the principles of cemetery design common to their respective periods of construction or use. In addition, there are several specimen trees of significant age, which warrant protection. The tree canopy in the upper cemetery and the lack of tree cover in the lower cemetery are both important in demonstrating period principles in cemetery design.

The chapel of ease cemetery was cleared and fenced in 1751 indicating that trees were not part of the colonial cemetery.

However, trees were left in place in the upper cemetery as it developed, leaving many shade trees well over 100 years old. Other

trees were intentionally planted, notably trees bordering the roadways, such as the sugar maples in Section I, several firs at the intersection of Northern Avenue and some of the grass footpaths, other firs and cedars scattered about, and hollies toward the eastern end of the upper cemetery. Evergreens were common in cemeteries in the 19th century as symbols of everlasting life, somberness, and serenity. There are also a number of smaller plantings, such as boxwood and flowering bulbs at individual graves and in family plots. The plantings and natural trees are consistent with the development of the cemetery and its reliance on common cemetery design ideas, from the trends set by the New Haven Burying Ground and its followers and the later rural cemetery movement.

Trees in the developed section of the lower cemetery include several older deciduous trees at random locations, left in place when the grounds were cleared in the late 1930s; five groupings of three cedars each, planted at the time of development as a cemetery; and smaller plantings such as fruit trees and shrubs around individual graves. Planting fewer trees became more prevalent in the 20th century with the advent of the lawn-park style of cemetery design. Advances in technology also allowed for mechanized push and riding mowers, which reinforced open landscape designs. This machinery made maintaining the groundcover a relatively easy task, provided there are few trees to circumnavigate. Cridland's choice of cedars follows the tradition of using evergreens in cemetery landscaping.

In the undeveloped area of the lower cemetery, to the north of the road, the land is marshy with several natural springs on the grounds. The tree cover is extensive with many older specimens as well as young growth.

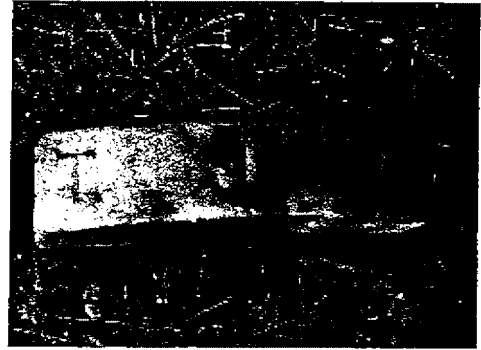


Boxwoods dominate the landscape in the upper cemetery.

Along the southern edge of the lower cemetery, trees adjacent to Baltimore Road act as a buffer, shielding the cemetery from the view of passing traffic. The buffer also creates a natural security system, discourages entrance from anywhere other than main drive. In the upper cemetery, an embankment and heavy tree cover along Baltimore Road function in the same manner, shielding the cemetery and protecting it.

Signage

There are identical signs for Rockville Cemetery at each three of the entrances. The signs were installed by the RCA in the 1990s. They are simple and contextual in their design, resembling a modest gravestone in their form. They are constructed of cast concrete with the name Rockville Cemetery inscribed.



Footstones, which mark the foot of the grave, often show just the initials.

Chapter 6

Guidelines

- Integrity and compatibility should be the guiding principles of design
- Courtesy reviews are highly recommended for alterations at the cemetery
- Maintenance is the most important method to protect historical sites
- Any non-reversible action should come to HDC for review

The process of historic preservation should not be considered as “beautification;” rather, it is about retaining and maintaining the significant features and overall character of a historic place so that it can visually impart to visitors its history and significance. The key to achieving this goal is through retention of integrity. In considering alterations at Rockville Cemetery, integrity and compatibility should be the guiding principles of design.

The National Park Service, the federal agency responsible for cultural preservation issues, provides the following information on beautification efforts in cemeteries:

“Improvements” also can affect historic integrity. Replacing a simple post and wire fence with a brick wall, modest slate headstones with elaborate monuments, and natural growth with nursery plantings all reduce integrity, however well-intentioned. Although beautification efforts may make a cemetery more attractive, replacing the original features diminishes the cemetery’s authentic historic character. Changes that occurred during the historic period, however, may reflect cultural beliefs and practices and contribute to a cemetery’s significance.⁷

This statement speaks to Rockville Cemetery’s existing high level of integrity. It also speaks to the issues to be addressed when considering changes and introducing new elements to the historic district. Change is not unwelcome in any of Rockville’s historic districts, including Rockville Cemetery. However, it should be limited to what is appropriate to the historic nature of the particular site. More planning and preliminary design work may be necessary to achieve solutions that balance the RCA’s needs with the HDC’s responsibility to preserve the historic district. Therefore, when alterations are planned at the cemetery, courtesy reviews are highly recommended.

In Chapter 5, the individual features, which contribute to the historic and aesthetic significance of Rockville Cemetery, are discussed. These features must be protected in order for the cemetery to retain its integrity and the qualities for which it was designated as a Rockville Historic District. While the following guidelines address each of the cemetery’s

significant features, the single most important method to ensure the longevity of historically significant sites, objects, and buildings is maintenance. Routine or cyclical maintenance is often overlooked as the most basic part of the preservation process. Without a maintenance program, large-scale repairs may become necessary. These expensive projects can often be avoided with the early detection made possible by routine inspection and cleaning.

The following sections discuss each of the significant features identified in Chapter 5 and the types of alterations that may be appropriate. Any non-reversible action within the cemetery not covered by these guidelines or any questions should come to HDC for review.

Overall Plan and Infrastructure

- Changes to the cemetery's site plan require HDC approval
- Activities may require additional City review and permits
- Ground-disturbing activities (other than burials) conducted after an archaeologist has determined that no unmarked burials are present

Because changes to the cemetery's site plan have the potential to affect the cemetery's historic design and pattern of use, they require HDC approval. The HDC review does not affect existing zoning or uses, as permitted by the City, but can help the RCA develop plans that have the least amount of impact on the historic integrity of the cemetery.

Possible alterations to the cemetery's overall plan include such activities as grading, infrastructure improvement (roads, paths, lighting, drainage, etc.), deforestation, and plotting new areas of development. Such activities may require additional City review and permits to assess environmental, safety, and other concerns.



The secondary roads are now grass over gravel.

It is critical to remember that over the course of time, markers may have been disturbed, removed, buried, or never placed at a gravesite. For these reasons, it is advisable that ground-disturbing activities other than normal burials, particularly at the cemetery's perimeter, should be conducted only after an archaeologist has determined that no unmarked burials are present.

Circulation System

- No HDC review required for in-kind repairs or replacement
- Adding or altering paths or roads must be approved by the HDC
- Widening the roads is typically an inappropriate alteration
- Grass walks should remain grassed and the gravel walks remain gravel or gravel and grass, as they are currently

The circulation system at Rockville Cemetery is particularly significant in the upper section with its curving paved drives, footpaths that were once gravel, grass walks, and steps. This

historic system shows the influence of the 19th century rural cemetery movement on the design of Rockville Cemetery. Changes to the circulation system should be made with caution and regard for the significance of the resource. According to the National Trust:

Roads and paths, particularly in 19th-century cemeteries are often a key feature in articulation of the cemetery's landscape design and their preservation and maintenance are essential. Such preservation includes maintaining existing widths and contours, and the original paving surfaces. Brick gutters should be maintained rather than ignored or eliminated. Introduction of asphalt for the convenience of modern vehicles seriously alters the site and erodes integrity.⁸

In the case of Rockville Cemetery, the concrete gutters and drains with lids were used rather than the brick gutters mentioned here. Again, maintenance is stressed as a primary preservation approach. When repair is necessary, the existing materials, dimensions, and styles should be retained to the maximum extent possible or a replacement should be sensitively selected. No HDC review is necessary for repairs or replacement using the same materials in the same design.

Adding paths or roads and altering existing paths and roads, including: resurfacing; curb and gutter installation; and intersection improvements must be approved by the HDC. In particular, the macadam roads in the upper cemetery have significance for their engineering, design, and appearance. While roads invariably need repair or resurfacing throughout their lifespan, replacing the historic macadam with an incompatible modern material such as concrete or introducing replacement materials that were never in the cemetery historically would adversely affect the historic appearance, materials, and design of the cemetery, and is not considered appropriate. In general, any repair or replacement material should be consistent with the macadam design and materials, that is, layers of small stones compacted into a hard surface by a binding material. The binding material in macadam roads has evolved over the years, however. Whereas a true macadam road used stone dust and water, it is more common today to use asphalt. The key element is having a higher percentage of gravel than asphalt.

In thinking about replacement materials, the Rockville Cemetery Association should consider composition, color, texture, longevity, and absorption rate, all of which will affect appearance, functionality, and stability. In the upper section, the roads are narrow by today's standards but illustrate its 19th century period of design. Widening the roads is typically considered an inappropriate alteration to the character of the cemetery and may not be possible due to burials.



Mature trees line Bouie Avenue.

The placement of the road is also important in the lower cemetery, since it reflects Robert Cridland's original design. However, it is a more modern surface and may be easier to alter, if necessary. HDC approval is necessary for road replacement or resurfacing with a different paving material in the lower cemetery and care should be taken in selecting appropriate materials. Resurfacing with in-kind paving material does not require HDC approval.

Similarly, the grass walks should remain grassed and the gravel walks remain gravel or gravel and grass, as they are currently. Introducing materials that were never in the cemetery historically would diminish the cemetery's integrity. If the gravel is replaced, it should be with the same material in the same size and color, if available. Such a replacement would not need HDC approval since it will not alter the historic feature. However, if that material is unavailable, using a different material will require a Certificate of Approval. The new material should approximate the historic appearance of the gray gravel (i.e. white marble chips or pea gravel are not appropriate selections). The paths and walkways currently have no demarcating borders, a feature consistent with the original design, and one that should remain intact.

While the concrete curb and gutter system may not be original to the upper cemetery, it does appear to be of significant age, probably dating to the 1930s. The curved shape of the curb and its uniformity throughout the cemetery, both upper and lower, is important in lending an aesthetically pleasing appearance to such a functional structure. Repair or replacement of the gutters and curbs should be handled with care. When identical materials are used, matching in composition, color, texture, and style, no Certificate of Approval is necessary. When an alteration in the material or design is necessary or desired, HDC approval will be required. In the upper cemetery, it is important to understand how a new material will function in relation to the historic macadam. A modern material may have the potential to damage the macadam if it does not perform in the same manner as the existing gutter system. For instance, a new material should allow the original macadam to expand and contract in response to temperature to avoid developing cracks and other damage.

As with the roads and paths, the steps in various areas throughout the cemetery should be treated with care. If repairs are necessary, they should be completed using identical materials, doing no harm to the existing materials or changing their appearance. In such cases, a Certificate of Approval is not necessary. Adding, removing, or altering stairs does require HDC review. Such work should be planned to minimize visual or infrastructural impact to the cemetery and should use materials and designs that match the existing in form, color, and texture.

The culvert that crosses Little Falls Branch in the lower cemetery is owned and maintained by the City of Rockville. Changes to this culvert must also receive a Certificate of Approval from the HDC if the work will remove or replace the historic stone and concrete building materials with other materials or if the work will in any way alter its design. Maintenance and repair as necessary are preferable to replacement.

In addition to HDC review, alterations to the Cemetery's circulation systems may require additional City review and permits to assess environmental, safety, and other concerns.

Other Systems

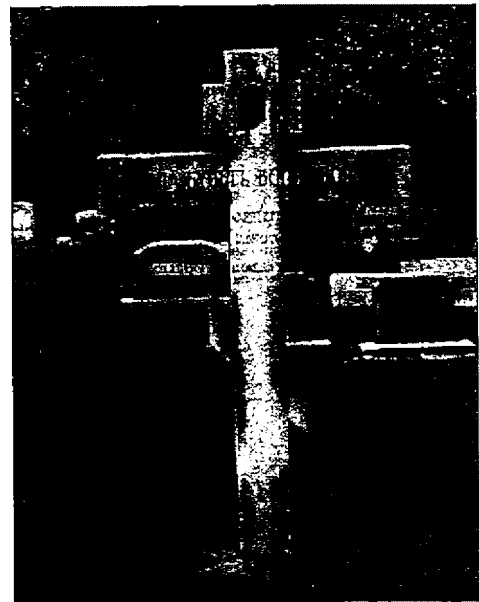
- Installation, replacement or removal of infrastructure system features requires HDC approval
- Input from the HDC through courtesy reviews results in design that least affects the historic integrity

Historic infrastructure systems at Rockville Cemetery include the cistern and underground pipes to provide water to the Caretaker's Cottage, a watering system for the cemetery grounds, and a water retention system on Little Falls Branch. These systems have or historically had a role in the operation of the cemetery. Maintaining, removing, and/or updating these systems is important to ensure they are functioning properly and/or they do not present hazards. Replacement or removal of these features requires HDC approval. The work should be done only after proper documentation of the feature in consultation with HDC staff.

Should the RCA or City wish to install other infrastructure on the cemetery grounds, such as electricity and security, a detailed plan must be approved by the HDC, including placement and design of lights, gates, or other devices. Providing systems that improve the safety of a valuable historic resource may be appropriate but must be sensitively designed as it will introduce a modern element into the historic cemetery. The input of the HDC in the design process, through courtesy reviews, will result in a system design that least affects the historic integrity of the cemetery.

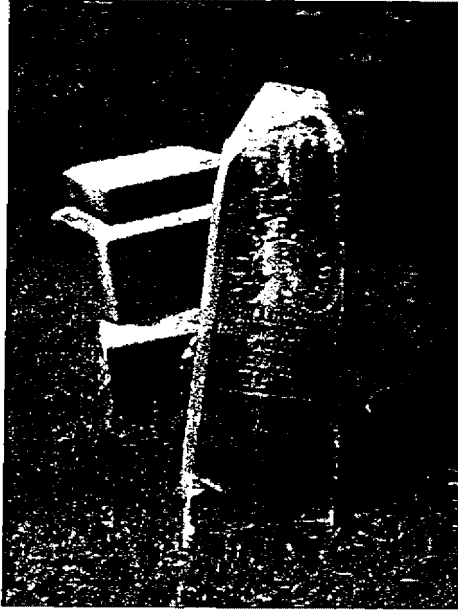
Individual and Family Plot Markers

- Design of new individual markers is not regulated by these guidelines
- HDC review will be required if a new marker interferes with the structure or stability of an existing feature
- Annual site visits should be conducted to check for damaged or fallen stones
- new marker interferes with the structure or stability of an existing feature should be undertaken only under the supervision of the RCA
- All work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties
- Fallen headstones and footstones should not be moved without research to determine proper location for reinstallation



The Vassilieff marker illustrates the diversity within the cemetery.

Because Rockville Cemetery is an active cemetery with ongoing lot sales and burials, new memorials will continue to be placed in both the upper and lower sections of the cemetery.



Classical symbols, like the obelisk, became a popular type of marker by the mid-19th century.



Due to the nature of their design, obelisks are vulnerable to tilting and breakage.

Just as the existing historic markers contribute to our understanding of design trends, so will the placement and design of new headstones, footstones, mausolea, boundary markers, and other memorials. The design of individual markers is not regulated by these guidelines. The RCA has particular guidelines for new memorials and they should be consulted before the installation of new elements in the cemetery. While it is possible that the views of some existing historic markers may be obscured, as long as the placement of new monuments does not physically impact existing monuments, the new monuments require no HDC review. In the event that the installation of a new marker may physically interfere with the structure or stability of an existing feature, HDC review will be required. In addition, it is important that no archaeological features be disturbed during the placement of new structural elements within the cemetery.

Responsibility for the maintenance of grave markers and family plots falls either to the plot purchaser and his/her descendants or to the RCA as part of its Perpetual Care agreement with the purchaser. In cases where no family members can be located, the RCA may choose to assume the responsibility of stabilizing or repairing monuments that are greatly threatened. Annual site visits are recommended to check the cemetery for fallen or damaged monuments. If damaged stones are discovered, every effort should be made to contact surviving members of the family. While owners may opt to clean and repair individual structures, such work is not recommended. Rather, these guidelines suggest that cleaning and repair work should be undertaken only under the supervision of the RCA to ensure consistency and regularize maintenance. Because of the delicate nature of inscribed stone and rusted metal, such projects should be carried out with caution. Cleaning projects have the potential to severely damage historic materials (in many cases, irreparably). This damage is due to overly abrasive techniques or to chemical reactions between the cleaning agents and the minerals within the stone or metal. Structural repairs also have the potential to cause or accelerate damage due to chemical reactions with adhesives or to the faulty installation or replacement of reinforcing materials.

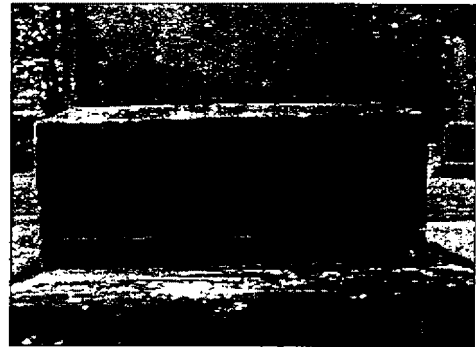
When a repair or cleaning project is proposed, it is recommended that the RCA consult HDC staff and such guidelines as Lynette Strangstad's *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation's *Landscapes of Memories* (see Appendix D for more resources). All work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties* and it is highly recommended that a trained stone or metal conservator complete repair and restoration.

The HDC must be approved the relocation, removal, or replacement of any gravestone, marker or structural element, whether by individual owners or by the RCA. While it may be the wish of the family to replace a marker, and such a request may be granted, filing for a Certificate of Approval at the very least documents the marker's original appearance, setting, and orientation. However, when at all possible, the RCA should apprise the owner that the cemetery is historically designated and the removal of any monument, plot fence, or boundary stone has the potential for the cemetery to lose an important cultural artifact and may impact the cemetery's visual rhythm, pattern of burials, and historic character. Each is important not only for identifying an individual grave or the borders of purchased plots, but also for demonstrating how the ideals of the different movements in cemetery design and art were carried out in Rockville.

Fallen headstones and footstones should not be moved without prior research. While it is often easiest to remove them to the cemetery perimeter or to stack them against a tree or fence, these actions are not appropriate. These markers may be located near the original gravesite and should be properly repositioned in their correct location.



The owners of planters should be encouraged to maintain them with seasonal plantings.



Line trimmers caused the damage inflicted on this stone.

Other Structural Features

- Any alteration that changes the materials or design of the exterior of a building or structure requires HDC review
- Work at the Caretaker's Cottage must conform to the City's Design Guidelines for Rockville's Historic Districts
- Work on the mausolea must also conform to these guidelines

- No review is needed for work if the replacement uses identical materials and design on retaining walls or entrance pylons

Repair and restoration work at the Caretaker's Cottage and outbuildings shall conform to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards*, the City's *Adopted Architectural Design Guidelines for the Exterior Rehabilitation of Buildings in Rockville's Historic Districts*, and the Historic District Commission's Technical Guides for Exterior Alterations. Work on the mausolea, which are considered buildings, must also conform to these guidelines, as each is considered a contributing element to the cemetery's aesthetic character. In general, any alteration that changes the materials or design of the exterior of a building or structure requires HDC review. Interior alterations do not require a Certificate of Approval and may proceed without HDC review. State and federal tax incentives may be available for repair of the structures with the cemetery. The tax incentives changes form year to year; therefore it is advised that contact be made with the Maryland Historic Trust Office Of Preservation Services Rehabilitation Tax Credit Unit. Eligible work must have approval from the Maryland Historical Trust before the work begins.

If work is planned for other structural features, such as the retaining walls or entrance pylons, no review is necessary if the repair does no damage to existing materials or the replacement uses identical materials and design. Changes, additions, or removals must receive HDC approval to assure compatibility with the site. For repointing information, the Technical Guide No. 14: Masonry will be useful.

The remaining cast iron perimeter fence is a trace of the former grandeur visible when approaching the cemetery. It is a significant contributing element at the cemetery and should be preserved. It is preferable to retain and repair the existing fence to the maximum extent possible. As stated in the National Trust publication *Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds*, "When existing ironwork structures, such as fences, are not complete, a preferred preservation solution is to repair and maintain the remaining work rather than add historically incorrect substitutes."⁹ Adding infill pieces may be acceptable provided they are designed to imitate the existing fence. Any infill, removal, or replacement of the historic fence would require HDC review. HDC staff can approve new fencing (but not removal of the existing fence) if it conforms to the HDC's Technical Guide No. 6: Fencing. It should be noted that several pieces of historic fencing remain in the yard of the Caretaker's Cottage. These pieces should be used to repair the fence before any new pieces are fabricated.

Should the RCA request new construction in the historic district HDC approval would be necessary. A courtesy review is also advisable depending on the scale of the proposed construction. Design for a new building, large-scale monument, or other structure would, of course, be dependent upon its function. However, it should be contextual and appropriate for its cemetery setting.

Landscape Elements

- Encourage vegetation that will reinforce historic integrity of cemetery
- Certificate of Approval for removal of trees diameters 12" and over

- Pruning of trees must be done according to American National Standards Institute standards for Tree Care Operations
- Replace dead trees or shrubs with in-kind species
- Seek HDC Review and approval for the removal of mature trees/shrubs
- Plant historically accurate species
- Select edging and mulch materials that are historically accurate

Because Rockville Cemetery is primarily a landscape resource, it is highly recommended that the RCA develop a landscape plan to identify the important historic features of the cemetery as well as detail the variety and species of the vegetation. Many

of the landscape elements in the Rockville Cemetery contribute to the property's historic appearance and offer information on how the cemetery's owners and designers have historically regarded the element of nature within a cemetery setting. As discussed in Chapter 5, the cemetery mirrors the design changes, including those to the landscape, of successive periods. In the absence of an approved Landscape Plan, and because of this significance, the removal of trees and mature shrubs on common ground as well as individual and family plots must receive HDC approval.

With the development of a landscape plan, it would be possible to direct owners of burial plots and family members to a list of appropriate plants that will reinforce, rather than compromise, the cemetery's historic integrity. For instance, with a planning tool, it would be relatively easy to avoid planting inappropriate species, such as pampas grass, in an area more appropriate for boxwood, cedar, or arbor vitae. It would also facilitate establishing a tree maintenance schedule, including successive plantings to assure replacement trees as older trees decline. In this way, the RCA will be able to maintain the tree canopy, thereby retaining the existing character over time.

Until such time that the RCA develops a City-approved landscape plan, which can avoid repetitive requests from the RCA for individual Certificates of Approval, the HDC will require review for certain tree and shrub removals. In accordance with the Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance, any tree having a diameter measurement of twelve inches and over at breast height requires a Certificate of Approval for removal. Any tree measuring smaller may be



This tree grew into the iron fence, damaging both the tree and the fence.



When shrubs overgrow their locations they can hide stones or encroach on neighboring plots

removed without a Certificate of Approval. HDC Staff can approve removal with the City Forester's concurrence if there is a threat to safety or the tree is dead or dying. In the absence of an approved Landscape Plan, the introducing new species into the cemetery requires a Certificate of Approval. New plant materials have the potential to overwhelm older plants and can alter the historic record. Furthermore, care should be taken not to plant species that are listed as Invasive Exotic Species by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Pruning may be necessary if the health of the tree is an issue or if a limb presents a safety problem (i.e. too low to the ground, in danger of falling). Pruning may also be considered if sap from a tree is found to be causing damage to historically significant elements within the cemetery. Pruning of trees must be done according to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards. A Maryland licensed tree expert must do tree work, other than removals, which is compensated. Pruning is considered a maintenance issue and is therefore not reviewed by the HDC.

It is important to note that the removal of trees with extensive root systems has the potential to disrupt archaeological resources and to cause monuments, fences, and walls to lean or topple if the roots are removed. As the roots decay, there is the possibility of settlement, but this process is slow and can be monitored so that stones do not become unstable. In general, the removal should focus on the above-ground aspects of the tree, leaving the roots in place.

According to the Technical Guide No. 7: Landscaping, "mature shrubs are identified on the basis of species and size, but may have varying importance depending on quantity and siting within the particular landscape."¹⁰ In other words, it is difficult to provide blanket guidance on shrubs, and individual review by the HDC may be necessary to determine if a shrub is a significant feature for its historic placement and contribution to the overall character of the cemetery. When shrubs overgrow their locations, hiding stones or encroaching on



Depending on size, the removal of some tree may require a Certificate of Approval from the HDC.



The Prescott Mausoleum.

neighboring plots, the easiest solution may be to prune back the shrub, leaving it in its location and minimizing below-grade damage. Most shrubs, including boxwood, which is prevalent at Rockville Cemetery, will rapidly fill out again within a season or two. As with all pruning, this work would not require a Certificate of Approval.

It is also important to retain the topography to the extent possible at Rockville Cemetery. Just as hills, whether natural or created, and the concept of hillside burials were integral to the rural cemetery movement, so were open flat lawns in the lawn-park phase of cemetery design. Rockville Cemetery offers a digest of cemetery planning concepts as they developed over the years and it is important to preserve the connection between the movements and how they are demonstrated at the local level. The removal or replacement of ground cover or other anchoring plants should be handled with care as the cemetery is prone to erosion in some areas, causing some monuments to fall.

An Integrated Pest Management Plan should be included in the Landscape Plan to minimize the use of chemical herbicides or fertilizers. With Little Falls Branch dividing the upper cemetery from the lower cemetery, environmental issues are significant. The RCA should monitor the activity of its landscape contractor. In addition, the chemicals in many fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides can stain or erode historic materials including stone, brick, metal, and concrete. Equipment also has the potential to cause serious damage to cemetery features. Mowers can knock into monuments, causing chips, cracks, and structural damage. Line trimmers can incise softer stones. These issues, or the possibility of using a low-growing ground cover, rather than grass in some areas, may be considered as part of a larger landscaping plan.

Signage

- Current modern entrance signs do not contribute to historic significance
- Sign replacement would require Certificate of Approval
- Street signs or other interior signs are not appropriate

Installed in 1998, the current entrance signs do not contribute to the overall historic significance of the cemetery. Although, they were sensitively designed, their removal would not affect the cemetery's integrity. Should replacement signs be desired, the design should be sensitive to the historic nature of the cemetery and will require a Certificate of Approval. The new signs must conform to the City's sign ordinance and to the Technical Guide No. 9: Signs.

Street signs or other interior signs are not appropriate. These features would introduce historically inaccurate modern intrusions into the historic character of the cemetery. Signs with rules at entrances may be more appropriate depending on location and design, which must be approved by HDC. Maps available in a dispenser at the entrance or at the Caretaker's Cottage could help identify street names if necessary.

Introduction of New Elements

The introduction of new elements at Rockville Cemetery will require conscientious design that respects the cemetery's integrity. The RCA may wish to consider additions to the cemetery in the future such as benches, signage, and a facility to accommodate additional services. In reviewing requests for additions, the HDC will look at compatibility, scale, and siting of new elements. They will also evaluate the reversibility of the addition. A new element that does not cause a permanent alteration to the cemetery may be more appropriate. Generally, the introduction of historically inaccurate features is discouraged by the HDC for creating a false sense of history and for visually disrupting the historic character of a district.

The RCA should consult the *Technical Guide No. 5: New Construction*. Staff and the HDC are available to assist with design.

Recommendations

In recognizing Rockville Cemetery as an integral part of the heritage of Rockville and securing its designation as a local historic district, the RCA has taken an important step toward ensuring the continuation of the cemetery's high level of integrity. In developing these guidelines many people have contributed suggestions for the next steps for the RCA to consider. The challenge for the future of Rockville Cemetery is to protect, stabilize, and preserve of the character-defining features of the historic landscape while maintaining flexibility for the continued growth of this active cemetery. To aid the RCA in meeting that challenge following suggestions for preservation actions are set forth.

Plant Species Inventory: Taking an inventory of the plant species within the cemetery can serve as a basis for consideration of what may or may not be appropriate for the cemetery. Furthermore an inventory of the trees at Rockville Cemetery would help to assess the health of the trees and provide identification of trees that are sick or dying. Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts often conduct such inventories for merit badge projects.

Landscape Plan: As stated above, it is highly recommended that the RCA develop a landscape plan to identify the important historic features of the cemetery. Many of the landscape elements in the Rockville Cemetery contribute to the property's historic appearance and offer information on how the cemetery's owners and designers have historically regarded the element of nature within a cemetery setting. With the development of a landscape plan, it would be possible to direct owners of burial plots and family members to a list of appropriate plants that will reinforce, rather than compromise, the cemetery's historic integrity. It would also facilitate establishing a tree maintenance schedule, including successive plantings to assure replacement trees as older trees decline. In this way, the RCA will be able to maintain the tree canopy, thereby retaining the existing character over time. In addition, an Integrated Pest Management Plan should be included as part of the Landscape Plan.

Repair and Restoration Inventory: Priorities for the repair or restoration of the historic elements within the cemetery need to be established. Throughout the cemetery damaged and broken stones are at risk. The RCA has established a relationship with a cemetery conservator and many families have already begun to plan for repairs. An inventory of damaged

headstones, footstones, mausolea, boundary markers, and other memorials would enable the RCA to determine the most urgent needs.

Approval Requirements: A cemetery requires a wide range of normal maintenance activities and necessary modifications to provide for new burials and upkeep. The table in Appendix A summarizes the approval requirements for a wide variety of expected changes. Prior to undertaking work not summarized in the table, the historic planning staff should be consulted to identify the proper procedure.

Footnotes:

- 1 Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991, p. 31-34.
- 2 *Records of the Vestry of Prince George's Parish, 1821*.
- 3 Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991, p. 92
- 4 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. *Preservation Guidelines For Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries*. Boston: n.p., 2002. p.10
- 5 *Ibid*.
- 6 Cridland, Robert B., *Practical Landscape Gardening*. New York: De La Mare: 1916. p. 26.
- 7 *National Register Bulletin 41*, p. 4
- 8 ("Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds" NTHP Information Series No. 76, 1993, as quoted in AR book).
- 9 *Ibid*
- 10 *Technical Guide No. 7: Landscaping*

APPENDIX A **APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS MATRIX**

ACTION	NO APPROVAL	RCA	STAFF ACTION	HDC ACTION
Cemetery's site plan—changes to				◆
Paths or roads—adding or altering				◆
Infrastructure system features—Installation, replacement or removal				◆
Exterior of a building or structure—any alteration that changes the materials or design				◆
Signs or Fences—installation of new				◆
Signs or Fences—additions or alterations		◆		
Markers—New		◆		
Marker—New which interferes with the structure or stability of an existing feature				◆
Marker or structural element—relocation, removal, or replacement				◆
New Construction				◆
Trees—removal (under 12" in diameter)		◆		
Trees—removal (over 12" in diameter)			◆	
Tree—pruning	◆			
Mature shrubs—removal				◆
Introduction of new species				◆
Alterations—in-kind		◆		
Any non-reversible action not addressed in these guidelines		◆		◆

Appendix B

The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, 1995 Standards for Preservation

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

Appendix C

Historic Rockville Technical Guides for Exterior Alterations

will be provided in the final draft

Appendix D

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/18/1

Magi No. 1651715108

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

NR eligible ☐ yes ☐ no
contrib. element in H.D. ☐

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rockville Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1350 Baltimore Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 18)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Cemetery</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Rockville Cemetery Association

street & number 1350 Baltimore Road telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Land Records liber T

street & number Prince George's Courthouse folio 673

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office, 8700 Needwood Road

city, town Derwood state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/18/1

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Rockville Cemetery lies between the Rockville Civic Center property to the north and Baltimore Road to the south, bisected by a City-owned 1.8209 acre strip of land following Little Falls Branch from Baltimore road to the Civic Center. (See Map, Attachment 7.2) Avery Road is the west boundary and an apartment complex the east boundary. The cemetery is in two sections. The older west section, accessed from Avery road, is comprised of 7.7 acres in three parcels. The east 16.87 acre newer section is accessed by a circular private road accessed from Baltimore road at the east and west ends. Geographically, the cemetery lies on the stream banks along Little Falls with the highest elevation, 419 feet, on Avery Road, dropping to 300 feet at the stream and climbing back to 370 feet at the east property line.

The older section is laid out in a series of terraces with a "W"-shaped macadam drive from top to bottom connected by drives and grassed walkways. Concrete stairs from the drives provide access to the terraces. Mature hardwood trees of champion size shade the walks and drives, and tall evergreens recall the 19th century tradition of living memorials. Broken stretches of a 19th century iron fence remain in poor repair along Avery Road.

The character of the old section of the cemetery is varied. Although its use as religious chapel and church yard dates to 1738, its continuous use and subdivision into family plots has placed pre-revolutionary, federal, and Victorian stones next to recently carved crisp polished marble. Some of the family plots are enclosed by decorative iron fencing, others by granite or cement curbing, some by boxwood edgings. Prominent family markers with smaller individual stones mark other family plots. The burial sites are not organized in a strict gridwork, but almost in a patchwork fashion within and without the family plot structure. The memorials themselves vary from a 1752 four-inch thick stone decorated with carved tassel and drape, hourglass and skull and crossbones, to simple inscribed tombstones, tall Victorian obelisks, broken columns and urns, to elaborate free-standing stone crypts and mortuary temples with stained glass windows and brass grillwork. Vandalism is evident in ornaments broken from bases and overturned tombstones, but the cemetery placement well back from the road and the presence of an on-site caretaker has reduced its incidence.

continued on attachment 7.1

Description (continued) : Rockville Cemetery

The caretaker and family are housed in a symmetrical 2-1/2 story, frame vernacular Victorian house located just inside the entrance from Avery Road. Located on a steep hill, the house faces north, fronting on the cemetery with the south, or rear portion of the fieldstone foundation above grade. The 1889 house has a side-gabled rectangular east-west rear portion with a front gabled wing, (or stem) forming a "T" shape. A one-story verandah wraps around the three sides of the stem. The cross-gable roof is covered with composition shingles and there are two brick interior chimneys in the rear east-west portion. The exterior, including cornerboards, cornice, and any decorative sidings, has been clad with vinyl siding and the shutters removed, although the turned wooden porch posts remain. A terraced vegetable garden is southwest of the house and several outbuildings are to the west.

The west facade is composed of the west gabled end and the stem of the "T". There are small square ventilator panels at all gable peaks. The west gable end has a pair of windows centered on the second story, another pair centered on the first story, and one window is in the exposed foundation. The north side of the gable end has an exterior door on the first story, and one window is centered on the first story of the stem.

The north (front) gabled end has a pair of windows centered on the second story and a pair centered on the first story.

The east gabled end has two windows evenly spaced on the second story and a pair of windows on the first story. An exterior door is on the north side, first story, of the east gable and one window is centered on the first story of the stem.

The three-bay south (rear) facade has an unrelieved second story. The first story has one window in each bay. The exposed basement foundation has an attached shed-roofed porch with a cement floor. Two square wood posts connected by a plain stick and rail balustrade support the porch roof on the west half. There is one window in the west bay and a flush-mounted modern exterior door in the center bay. The east bay of the porch is enclosed by vertical siding with a wood panel exterior door on its west side.

Outbuildings

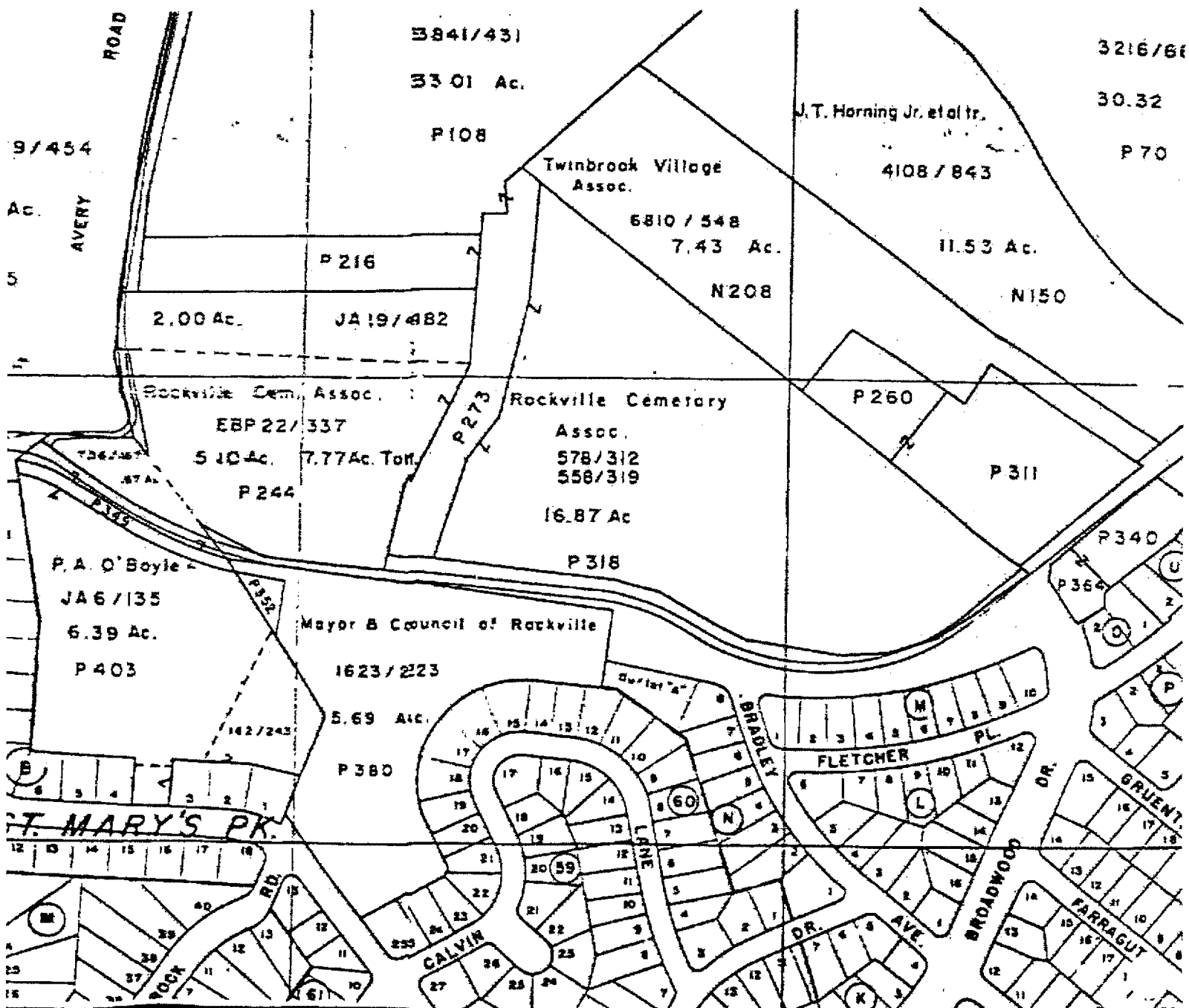
Two frame garden and utility sheds are located a distance west of the house. Both face north. The larger one is square with a fieldstone foundation which is exposed on the south and clad with German siding. It has a flared-eave hipped pyramidal roof covered with patterned tin shingles. There is a double door on the north side. A smaller square one also has a fieldstone base, but is clapboard siding, a side-gabled roof and a single battened door.

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Description (continued)

Rockville Cemetery: Map GR 562, Copyright State Department of
Assessments & Taxation; Office of Supervisor of Assessments,
Montgomery County, Maryland, 1967.



8. Significance

ey No H:26/18/1

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates 1738 site, 1889 bldg. Builder/Architect

W.R.Pumphrey, Sr.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The history of the Rockville Cemetery links the settlement and colonial period of this area to the present time. Records document nearly 250 years of continuous use for this site. Since 1880 the property has been owned by the Rockville Cemetery Association which built the Superintendent's house in 1889. The grounds have been enlarged and modernized over time, but the original two acre site and some of the earliest gravesites are extant.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Religion
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): Contact and Settlement (1600-1750)
4. Resource type: cemetery, single family residence

History and Support

The new parish of Prince George's was formed by the Anglican church in 1726 to serve the inhabitants of the rapidly growing northern and western parts of Prince George's County. 1/ The 1719 chapel at the mouth of Rock Creek (later Georgetown) was named the Parish Church by a vote of 49 to 26 on August 13, 1728. The minority parish members considered this chapel site too inconvenient and began a subscription for building a church "in the upper part of the parish". 2/

Land for this new chapel, the site of the present Rockville Cemetery, was first mentioned in the Vestry records of July 23, 1738 when the vestry resolved:

That a memorandum should be made that as Mr. Thomas Williams was so kind as to offer two acres of land being part of land called Mill Land for the building of a Chappell on that the Vestry accepts the same.

continued on page 8.1

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Cemetery

The tract "Mill Land" was granted to Edward Dawson in 1726. Lying "at the head of a glade on a branch of Rock Creek" it was approximately one mile northeast of what became the center of Rockville. Thomas Williams of the plantation "Three Sisters" (in Lanham, Prince George's County) leased this site for a water mill by 1731, and in 1734 purchased the entire 164 acre tract from the Dawsons. 3/ 4/

The church histories and vestry records for the next decade document both the enlargement and completion of the parish church at Rock Creek and the beginnings of the new Rock Creek Chapel. The similarity in name and scarcity of details have resulted in some confusion in dating construction stages of these buildings. Both the vestry records and church historians writing in the mid-19th century are silent on the exact beginning of the chapel/cemetery site. But many entries from the contemporary documents can be placed in context. (Appendix A Attachment 8.6 - 8.11) sets out the available information chronologically, giving some idea of size, architectural detail and materials used in these 18th century buildings, and the development of the "Chappell Yard"--today's cemetery. A small building constructed of weatherboarded planks and lop shingled roof was in operation by 1744. It was probably erected in 1734 when an assessment was made "toward building a new church", for by 1744 the General Assembly acted "to name the Chappell, a Chappell of Ease and the former Church the Parish Church."

In 1751 Thomas Nicholls contracted to build a fence around the Chapel Yard, to measure 100 by 96 feet with two gates four feet wide "as it is in the Church". Charles Haymond was hired to "grubb the yard and to clear the trees all out of same and to fell the trees for 15 feet distant all around the laid railles." 5/

The earliest extant grave marker now in the cemetery was located within this yard. Long time vestryman John Harding was born in 1685 and buried at this site in 1752. 6/ Mr. Harding was one of the original 26 petitioners for the new chapel; his descendants would occupy the Harding lands directly opposite the cemetery site until the 20th century. 7./ The Harding grave marker is a weathered stone, carved with a skull and crossbones and an hourglass motif. Its primitive carvings contrast with nearby modern monuments of finely carved Italian marble and polished brown stone.

In 1753, the vestry voted to set up a system to record births, marriages, and burials of parish members. However, no documentation exists for the earliest burials. Many of the earliest grave sites still extant mark the graves of families allied to the Williams and other nearby plantation owners. The names of the Beattys, Clagetts,

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Cemetery

Hillearys, O'Neals, Owens, and Bealls are a roll call of early families in the area.

In 1754 a 20 by 20 foot addition was made to the "backside" of the chapel, along with an eight foot entry porch. The addition was to be weatherboarded and planked "as laid in the original chapel" and the roof was to be shingled with "good white oak or cypress shingles. Later the entire building was raised another nine inches, stone foundations were laid and another 20 foot square addition enlarged the building. Appendix A lists additions of aisles, galleries, pews and windows to this vernacular church building.

During the century from 1734 to 1837 the Mill Land tract surrounding the chapel/cemetery site remained the property of the Williams family. The last half of the 18th century saw the vicinity, especially around the nearby crossroads, develop into an infant community. The chapel bordered the road to Rock Creek bridge. Other roads led to the market centers of Georgetown or Frederick, to the mills sites on creeks and to the other Church. the Presbyterian Meeting House at Captain John, generating social and commerical settlement of the area. One of Thomas Williams' grandsons, William Prather Williams, laid out town lots around the courthouse when this crossroads became the county seat of the new Montgomery County. First platted as "Williamsburg", it was later renamed Rockville. 8/

The original chapel was replaced by a new brick, two-story building between 1802 and 1808, but by 1817 this building was so deteriorated that the congregation members agreed to move into Rockville. The brick church was torn down, and some materials reused in the construction of a new Christ Church on Washington Street. (See survey site M:26/11/11) 9/ The various enlargments and final demolition of the chapel buildings in the cemetery make the precise location of the original chapel difficult to pinpoint, although in 1894 the Ladies Auxillary of the Cemetery Association announced that they had uncovered the foundation stones of the earliest chapel. These foundations are no longer in evidence. 10/

Richard J. Bowie purchased "Mill Land" and other parcels north of the Baltimore Road in 1837. 11/ His estate, Glen View, was in sight of the cemetery. In 1877 a new road was cut through the property and the cemetery's western boundary fronted on this road. This road ran from Baltimore Road to Muncaster Mill Road, past Horner's Mill at Rock Creek from which it took its name. Horner's Mill Road is now called Avery Road. 12/

The cemetery owned by Christ Church remained in general use, although both the Catholics and Baptists had their own burying grounds by the mid-19th century. Many families had their own small plots on their

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Cemetery

lands, but by 1860 the cemetery was so crowded that the Vestry resolved that no more burials could take place without consent of the Rector and vestryman and only after public notice in the newspaper.

The general conditions and lack of maintenance at the cemetery grounds were so bad by 1873 that they prompted an editorial in the Montgomery County Sentinel in which the cemetery "Where the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" was termed "not an inviting spot". (Attachment 8.11) The Sentinel mentioned the sandstone tombstone of another Harding, "Henry Harding, died March, 1773", but not the grave of his father, John. 13/

The move to expand the cemetery grounds, first discussed by the vestry in 1855, was not successful until 1880 when Judge Bowie donated 5 acres of land to the Vestry. 14/ At the same time an independent corporation was formed to hold and manage the cemetery grounds. Since that time the Rockville Cemetery Association has existed for that purpose, selling cemetery lots to persons of all religions.

In 1889 the Association contracted with local carpenter William Reuben Pumphrey "to build a tenant house within the enclosure of Rockville Cemetery, the building "to be a comfortable structure...to be occupied by a man who will have general supervision of the grounds". 15/ This cottage lies just east of the cemetery gates. It is built on a slope, T-shaped with projecting front gable, and a full width porch. Victorian elements are present in the long narrow windows fronting on this porch, and some turned, wooden spindle porch posts. The majority of the windows are 6/6, but few decorative details are present. In 1980 the old frame sheathing was covered with vinyl siding, but one of the original frame outbuildings is extant. This raised structure is square, with splayed eaves supported by small brackets. It retains its patterned tin roof. A later outbuilding of is also present.

The builder of the house is buried within a large mausoleum with granite urns and stained glass windows. William R. Pumphrey was the second generation of local carpenters and undertakers. His father, William E. Pumphrey, died in 1887 and is buried nearby. Later generations of Pumphreys specialized in the mortuary side of the business and ceased to be known as carpenters.

Two more acres were added to the cemetery land in 1890, donated by Catherine Holland Williams Bowie, widow of Judge Bowie. (See Plat 216, Attachment 8.12) In 1897, 16 bodies were reinterred here after their removal from the Baptist Cemetery in Rockville, due to the road realignment and development around Falls Road and Montgomery Avenue. Both the Bowies, along with many of the town's 19th century citizens, are buried here.

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Cemetery

The Cemetery Association purchased an additional 16.18 acre parcel of land east of the original site in 1933. 16/ Most of the modern burials are on this acreage.

Asphalt paths and roads with pebbled concrete curbing now wind beneath the towering trees on the original part of the cemetery. Around the perimeter of the older section, some portions of the 19th century ornamental iron fencing remain. Various styles of grave markers and monuments represent the resting places of individuals and families. Some of the family groupings cover more than a hundred years of family lines.

Footnotes:

1. The volume containing The Records of Prince George's Parish bears the date 1726 on its cover, but the vestry records begin with the 1719 list of subscribers for building the chapel at Rock Creek (later St. Paul's, Georgetown). These vestry records were used for most of the extant church histories; the microfilmed copy was used for this form (Reel #117 at Rockville Public Library).
2. Ethan Allen, History of Prince George's Parish, Montgomery County (1860-61). Maryland Historical Society manuscript collection, Manuscript #376, p. 7 and vestry records for August, 1728.
3. Prince George's County Land Records T/109 (1734) (Dawsons to Thomas Williams) and Prince George's County Debt Books.
4. Rev. George Murdoch was paid 36 pounds of tobacco for recording the deed November 30, 1738 at Prince George's County Land Records T/673.
5. Vestry records for August and November, 1751.
6. Harding family information is found in genealogies, wills, plat and Land Records. John Harding's Will proved 5 February, 1752 is recorded at Frederick County Will Book A, folio 74-75.
7. The Harding lands during the 19th century lay on the south side of Baltimore Road, and most of the Hardings were Catholic. Catherine Jane Harding Maddox (b. 1824) donated part of her farm to St. Mary's for the expansion of the Catholic cemetery, directly opposite the gates to the Rockville Cemetery. The southern portion of Harding/Maddox land is the later subdivision of "Janeta". (Family Histories and Montgomery County Land Records.)
8. One of John Harding's grandsons was Robert Owen, who was also the nephew of local tavern keeper Lawrence Owen. Robert Owen contracted with the vestry to build the vestry room addition in 1764. (See Appendix A, Attachment 8.6-8.11).

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Cemetery

9. No records of the vestry for 1773-1790 exist. After the Revolution the American branch of the Church of England adopted the name Protestant Episcopal Church; Rock Creek Chapel became Christ Church.
10. A short history of the cemetery and church is given in the "Constitution and By-Laws of the Rockville Cemetery Association". This undated brochure, apparently written in the early 20th century, includes the mention of 1894 events. Maud Wilson Betts' 1975 church history, "Piscataway to Prince George's Parish", includes a photo of the vicinity.
11. Land and Tax Records 1777-1887, Plats and history of "Glen View". Survey M:26/17/1.
12. Plat recorded at Montgomery County Land Records EBP16/380. The 1879 Hopkins Atlas shows this new road.
13. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 30, 1873.
14. In April 1855 a committee was formed to pursue an enlarged "Union Protestant" Graveyard, and on February 7, 1860 the Senate of Maryland passed an Act enabling the Church Vestry to hold 15 acres, but no further mention of enlargement occurs at that time. The cemetery was never known as the Rockville Union Cemetery, despite some references to it by that name.
15. Sentinel, October 18, 1889.
16. Land Records 558/319 and 578/312.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Rockville Cemetery

APPENDIX A

CHRONOLOGY OF BUILDING PROGRAM - PRINCE GEORGE'S PARISH

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)
Later Christ Church

1719 - Subscriptions to build a chapel
on part of Capt. Bealls land at the
mouth of Rock Creek.

1725 - Repairs to Chapel

1726 - Contract for a Vestry House,
16 X 12 feet overjettied, with inside
chimneys, 8 foot (roof) pitch, to put
floor in Church, engaged George Beall
for the work.

1727 - Bingle Page to build 14 pews
and a place for clerk to sit.

August, 1728 - Voted 49-26 that Rock Creek would be the Parish Church, but
the minority of 26 began subscription for Church in "the upper part of the
parish."

1731 - Sent to London for: 5 Casements
(windows) 30 X 17 inches long and 5
lights (panes) the same; 10 lights 21
X 17; 2 lights 23 X 11; and surplice.

1733 - Building a pailling (fence)
around church with gate.

1733/34 - Contract with Bingle Page
and Benjamin Perry to build a gallery
with seats, and for 8 "good and
substantial new blocks of locust or
chestnut to the church" (Path stepping
blocks.)

1734 - Sent to London for 6 sash
windows 7 X 3 feet long with lines and
pulleys...one single light (pane) 3
feet by 18 inches.

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued)
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)
Later Christ Church

1735 - Sent to London for 5 lights of diamond cut glass 5 feet long to be divided in the middle, one half in a casement and the other half fixt.

1737 - Mr. John Chew promised to buy glass for left hand of the Church- will be 76 panes @ 1 shilling 6 pence per.

1738 - Thomas Williams donates 2 acres of "Mill Land" for the building of a chapel.

1739 - Rev. Murdoch paid for recording deed for 2 acres of ground to build a chapel.

1741 - Sent to London for Bible and Common Prayer Book for Chapel.

1744 - Acts of Assembly, Chapter 2 (1744) Former Church to be the Parish Church.

1744 - Completion of 3 years of repairs to church, fence and pews.

1750 - Payment to Church Sexton, Richard Peck for 3.

1743 - Assessment of tobacco per poll toward building a new church

1744 - Acts of Assembly, Chapter 2 (1744). Chapel already built to be made a Chapel of Ease, Prince George's Parish.

1748 - Rock Creek Chapel to have services every other Sunday in place of Paint Branch Chapel.

1750 - Payment to Chapel Sexton, Susan Beatty for 2.

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SECTION 8 PAGE 8

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)
Later Christ Church

1750 - John Clagett to build a gallery and a reading desk with room for a clerk and a pulpit.

1751 - Thomas Nicholls to raile in (fence) the Chapel Yard. "Chappell Yard to be 100 by 96 feet with 2 gates 4 feet wide as it is at the Church."

Also to make rail around communion table; chancel to be 5 feet wide and 6-1/2 feet long and lower to be railed 10 inches.

1751 - Charles Haymond to "grubb the Chapel Yard and clear the trees all out of same, to fell all trees for 15 feet distant all around the laid railes."

1754 - Simon Nicholls to repair and amend Chapel "To make an amendment of 20 foot square to backside of Chappell; to be weatherboarded and planked as laid in said Chappell, whole of Chappell and Amendment to be shingled with good white oak or cypress singles"

Amendment would have windows and shutters, pulpit and desh and one door to backside

"One 8 foot square porch to be put on the front, the whole to be underpind with stone."

1754 - Simon Nicholls paid 8,460 lbs of tobacco.

1755 - Nicholls to raise Chapel 9 inches higher and put up 2 horse blocks.

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SECTION 8 PAGE 9

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)
Later Christ Church

June, 1761 - Agreement with Nicholas Haymond for work: "5 windows of 18 lights in each, and 1 window above in gallery with 8 lights.

Chapel Yard to be posted with posts 4 feet long, two feet in the ground, 2 feet behind the old post with 3 pins in each post...Three gates to yard to be made good and railles set to rights, if new ones be wanting to be put in place of those that are rotten."

1764 - Robert Owen to build a vestry room "20 X 20 feet, 7 foot 6 inch pitch; planked above and below, planed lop shingles..mantlepiece, back and hearth of stone."

1767 - Another 20 foot square addition to the front of the Chapel.

1768 - Rock Creek Church is much deteriorated, pulled down.

1769-1770 - Gallery built in east end and new pews (26) and several private seats to be built.

1771 - Bills in Assembly to petition for new brick and stone church on site of present one.

(No Vestry Minutes/Records 1773-1790)

1774 - Advertisement for contract for new church to be built four miles from Georgetown, between Monocacy and Seneca Church to be 50 feet square, walls of brick 22-1/2 inches thick on first floor, 18 on second, stone foundations, cypress shingle. (Location of this Church is not determined.)

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued)
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)
Later Christ Church

1794 - Chapel in ruinous condition,
funds to build new one not available.

1802-1808 - Construction of 2-story,
brick church, Christ Episcopal Church.

1817 - Church unsuitable for worship
due to inconvenient arrangement and
poor workmanship.

1820 - Subscription for new church to
be built on South Washington Street in
Rockville.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)
Rockville Cemetery: Montgomery County Sentinel May 30, 1873

The Old Cemetery. — About a mile from Rockville, on the farm of Judge Howitt, is an old graveyard, located there by the ancestors of a generation that has passed away. It lies under the Baltimore road, and, at present, is not an inviting spot, though one could there spend profitably an hour or two among the tombs over which the storms of more than a century have spent their force, the sleepers beneath unconscious of their fury. We wandered over this enclosure, an evening of two ago, in company with the estimable lady of our renowned Judge, who pointed out to us the various places of interest. An old, gray, sandstone, surrounded by undergrowth, lay flat on the ground, and over the remains of one who had been laid in that lonely spot more than a century ago. Time had made its impress upon the stone, as it does upon all things else, but the inscription was plainly legible, and was: "Henry Hamilton, died March, 1772." "Mild" as we did not recall, and: "What mighty events have transpired since that time! When Maryland was a province of the British Crown; George III. was on the throne of England, but here now Hays were his subjects, and the Revolution had not taken place. But we must not pursue this train of thought. Yet, here, where — " "The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," are others who have been deposited there, of more recent date. Several of the graves are sections — some have tombstones that affection has placed here. Whilst other graves are nameless and unknown. It was a burying-ground common to all, but is now not much used owing to the opening of others in the past few years, and it may afford a melancholy place to those who have kindred and friends buried there, to learn that a movement is now being made to clean up and beautify and adorn the old graveyard — lay out walks and improve the spot in every particular. It is proposed to an invitation to effect this end, of members of Christ Church, Rockville, Rev. James B. Atkinson, will preach a sermon in that Episcopal Church, Rockville, Monday evening, June 1st, at 8 o'clock, "On the Duty of the Dead Imposed by Religion." Text: Genesis, 22nd, vs. 26, vs. Joseph's command concerning his own bones. It is a fine fitting place for a cemetery, could be found, and our people owe it to themselves to beautify and adorn this spot, and remember that it is a burial ground for them and theirs when they shall be called to sleep with their fathers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/18/1

Records of Prince George's Parish, church histories by Ethan Allen (1861), Rev. Mayland (1845) Maud Betts (1975). Prince George's, Montgomery and Frederick County Land, Will and Plat records. Records of the Rockville Cemetery Association; Family histories and genealogies; MHT forms for "Glen View" and Christ Episcopal Church.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 26.64 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel	J. Christensen	Arch. description
organization	Pearless Rockville	date	October, 1986
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Appendix E

Recommended Resources

Books:

Lynette Strangstad. A Graveyard Preservation Primer

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation's Landscapes of Memories

David Charles Sloane, The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History

John F. Llewellyn, A Cemetery Should Be Forever

Richard E. Meyer, ed., Cemeteries and Gravemarkers : Voices of American Culture

Websites:

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/>

<http://www.savinggraves.com/>

http://chicora.org/cemetery_preservation.htm

<http://www.potifos.com/cemeteries.html#books>

Publications:

Baker, F. Joanne, and Farber, Daniel, with Anne G. Giesecke. "Recording Cemetery Data,"
Markers: The Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies, 1: 99-117, 1980.

Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The Boston Experience: A Manual for Historic
Burying Grounds Preservation, 1989.

Meier, Lauren, and Betsy Chittenden. Preserving Historic Landscapes. National Park Service
Reading List series. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior. National Park
Service, Preservation Assistance Division, 1990.

National Park Service National Register Bulletins Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering
Cemeteries and Burial Places (#41)

Appendix F

Persons Of Note In Rockville Cemetery

Upton Beall (1770-1827) Second Clerk of the Court for Montgomery Co.; his father was the First Clerk of the Montgomery Co. Court; but lived in Georgetown & not Rockville: Upton was first Clerk of the Court to live in Rockville. He built Beall-Dawson House, which is home to the Montgomery Co. Historical Society, in 1815. Married twice, first to Matilda Lee Price, daughter of Thomas Price & Sarah Clapton; second to Jane Neal Robb.

Dr. Ernest Bullard d. 1931 Founder of Bullard Mental Hospital, now called Chestnut Lodge, a private mental hospital where the movie "Lilith" was filmed in the 1960's. The hospital provided inpatient and outpatient mental health services for more than 90 years.

William Veirs Bouic, Jr. (1846-1906) The first mayor of Rockville.

Richard Johns Bowie (1807-1881) Born in Washington, D.C., June 23, 1807. Member of Maryland state senate, 1836-37; U.S. Representative from Maryland 1st District, 1849-53; candidate for Governor of Maryland, 1853; state court judge in Maryland, 1861-81. Died near Rockville, Montgomery County, Md., March 12, 1881.

Catherine Williams Bowie (1808-1891) Wife of Richard John Bowie, together they established the farmstead Glenview.

Lawrence A. Dawson (1807-1873) Farmer and attorney.

Thomas L. Dawson. d. September 14, 1944. Son of Thomas Dawson, Clerk of the Court in Rockville, who died in 1924. A lawyer who lived on West Montgomery Avenue in Rockville, about opposite the Presbyterian Church. Elected State's Attorney in 1920, served one term then went into private practice. Appointed Secretary of State for the State of Maryland in the early 1930s by Governor Harry Nice; served one term and then returned to private practice. He died of a heart attack.

John Glissen England, Jr. was the Mayor of Rockville in 1894, a councilman, Director of the Board of Education, and postmaster. He and wife, Annie Griffith, had 15 children. A great-grandson of Revolutionary War Brigadier General Jeremiah Crabb

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940.) Twentieth century literary icon, author of The Great Gatsby, Tender in the Night, and Beyond Paradise among others. He and his wife Zelda were moved to St. Mary's cemetery in Town Center in 1975 to be near the Fitzgerald family.

Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald (1900-1948) Wife of F. Scott Fitzgerald. She died in 1948 in a fire at a North Carolina sanitarium. She, along with her husband, were removed to St. Mary's Cemetery in Town Center in November of 1975.

John Harding (1683-1752) Planter. The oldest known gravestone in Rockville.

Walter Perry Johnson (1887-1946) Professional baseball pitcher with Washington Senators, 1907-27; won 417 games, second only to Cy Young; held major league record in career strikeouts (3,508) from 1921 until 1983; holds record for career shutouts (110) and other records; was pitcher at the 1910 baseball game at which William H. Taft became the first President to attend Opening Day; also was manager of the Washington Senators and the Cleveland Indians; elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936. Perry was a Republican candidate for U.S. Representative from Maryland 6th District, 1940. Died, of a brain tumor in Georgetown Hospital, Washington, D.C., December 10, 1946.

Robert Whiteside Kirk (1892-1966) He, along with his 2 brothers & mother worked on building the Panama Canal about 1910-1913

Stedman Prescott Son of Alexander F. and Edith Kellogg. Prescott was a lawyer who lived on West Montgomery Avenue, next to Pumphrey's Funeral Home. He was elected a Judge of the Circuit Court. While still a judge, he was appointed to the Maryland's Court of Appeals in October 1956, to serve until the next election. He was then elected to a 15-year term on the Court in November 1958; in December 1964, was appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; retired August 1966. Full name was Edmund Stedman Prescott; his signature was: 'E. Stedman Prescott'.

Lee Offutt (1864-1929) City Council member from 1890 to 1898, Offutt went on to become Mayor of Rockville 1906-16 and again from 1918 to 1920. Offutt was the Mayor during the typhoid epidemic of 1913.

Elijah Barrett Prettyman (1891-1971) Born in Lexington, Va., August 23, 1891. Served in the U.S. Army during World War I; Judge of U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, 1945-62. Member, American Bar Association. Died August 4, 1971.

Pumphrey Family Carpenters and undertakers. The Pumphrey's built many Rockville houses and by the mid-1850s they began building coffins as well. In 1928 Pumphrey's Colonial Funeral Home opened on Montgomery Street. The business continues under the management of the sixth generation of that family.

Edwin Smith (1851-1912) Smith worked for the Coast and Geodetic Survey studying variations in latitude from his home on Forest Avenue.

E.E. Stonestreet (1830-1903) Dr. Edward Elisha Stonestreet was an early physician in Rockville immediately following the Civil War. Dr. Stonestreet's wooden office building was used for a while as the Rockville Library at which time it was moved to the grounds of the old Rockville High School and then stood on the corner of East Montgomery Av-

enue & Monroe Street. It was then moved again to the grounds of the Montgomery County Historical Society next to the Beall Dawson House, where it remains, fitted out as a Civil War physician's office.

Margaret Ann Claggett Higgings Welsh, (1856-1955) Founded the Women's Club of Rockville in 1900. This club has served the community of Rockville for more than 100 years in such ways as raising funds for the Red Cross, giving scholarships, and advocating public welfare.

Julius West (1809-1860) He was the patron of the Rockville Academy on Adams Street, and an early real estate developer for whom 'West End Park' is named. West End Park extended westward from around Forest Avenue, for about 1/2 mile, excluding a strip along the north side of West Montgomery Avenue, to about Bullard Mental Hospital (now called Chestnut Lodge.) It apparently got caught in a real estate slump early on and was a failure, but it is now a long-established neighborhood.

Rebecca T. Veirs 1883-1918 Leader of the Rockville Union Cemetery Society, a group of women who began in 1894 to restore the neglected cemetery grounds.



City of Rockville
Department of Community Planning and Development Services
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-314-5000 ✉ www.rockvillemd.gov
